

WEEK OF JANUARY 13, 2020

ENVIRONMENTAL
PRIORITIES
COALITION

Hot List for the

Washington State House of Representatives

Members of the Legislature,

For over 15 years, environmental groups in Washington State have organized their efforts in Olympia through the “Environmental Priorities Coalition.” Our coalition prepares a weekly Legislative “Hot List,” as a regular communication for legislators, which details our positions on up to ten of our highest priority issues for the upcoming week. The purpose of this communication tool is to allow the Washington State Legislature, the Executive Branch, and media organizations to easily track the Environmental Priorities Coalition’s top priorities all session long.

As a lobbyist for Washington Conservation Voters and Washington Environmental Council, I will send this “Hot List” to you on a weekly basis. Please feel free to contact me at clifford@ctassociates.org if you have any questions.

A PDF of the Hot List can be found [here](#) – along with an archive of all Hot Lists from 2019 as the Legislative Session progresses.

Our Top Priorities of 2020

Clean Fuels Now: The transportation sector is responsible for nearly half of our climate and air pollution in Washington. We need our transportation to be clean, affordable, and accessible. A Clean Fuel Standard will require fuel producers and importers to reduce pollution from the fuels that power our transportation system. It is a tested and effective policy that would clean our air, give us more options to fuel our vehicles (such as electricity and local renewable biofuels), create economic development, cut climate pollution, and move us beyond oil.

Reduce Plastic Pollution: Our local waterways, ocean, and recycling systems are overloaded with plastic pollution. Thin plastic bags that are used for just a few minutes and then thrown away pose a particular problem: only 6% ever get recycled. Single-use bags enter into our waterways and the ocean where they clog the stomachs of wildlife. They also clog recycling equipment where they are costly to remove and are the major contaminant in our commercial compost. The Reusable Bag Act would eliminate thin carry-home plastic bags at all retail establishments and help Washington address a growing recycling crisis.

Climate Pollution Limits: Climate action requires carbon reductions across the board and deep investments in healthier natural landscapes—shorelines, forests, and farms. This means setting credible and ambitious climate pollution limits, providing clear direction to meet these limits, and investing in nature-based solutions like trees and soils to capture excess carbon. This priority will update the state’s greenhouse gas limits to reflect current science and lay groundwork to reach net zero carbon emissions and beyond.

Healthy Habitat, Healthy Orca: With our beloved orcas facing extinction, bold actions to increase salmon populations are needed. After decades of development-related habitat loss, we seek passage of a new standard, net ecological gain, to protect and restore habitat and leave our environment better than we found it for future generations. We will work with state and local governments to implement this key Orca Task Force recommendation to accomplish results now and in the future.



House Committee Action



HB 1697: Concerning health coverage for young adults.

SUPPORT

House Health Care & Wellness: *Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 14th*

- This bill is a wise investment and is one way to help communities grappling with health issues related to pollution and degradation of our environment.



HB 2248: Expanding equitable access to the benefits of renewable energy through community solar projects.

SUPPORT

House Environment & Energy: *Public Hearing on Thursday, January 16th*

- Provides needed resources to enhance participation by, and provide benefits for, lower income communities in community solar projects.



HB 2265: Eliminating exemptions from restrictions on the use of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in firefighting foam.

SUPPORT

House Environment & Energy: *Public Hearing on Monday, January 13th*

- Eliminates exemptions for dangerous PFAS-containing firefighting foams.
- Protects public health, firefighter health, drinking water supplies, and other water bodies including Puget Sound.



HB 2311: Amending state greenhouse gas emission limits for consistency with the most recent assessment of climate change science.

SUPPORT

House Environment & Energy: *Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 14th*

- One of the four environmental community priorities of 2020.
- Updates climate pollution limits based on current climate science and recognizes the role of natural climate solutions.

about the coalition

The Environmental Priorities Coalition is a network of over twenty leading environmental groups in Washington state that influence policy at the state level. For over a decade, the Coalition has selected joint priority issues to work on during legislative session to help focus environmental community resources and best achieve our shared goals.

