

WEEK OF JANUARY 13, 2020

ENVIRONMENTAL
PRIORITIES
COALITION

Hot List for the

Washington State Senate

Members of the Legislature,

For the past 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.



Senate Committee Action



SB 5412: Reducing the greenhouse gas emissions associated with transportation fuels (Clean Fuel Standard).

SUPPORT

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

- One of the four environmental community priorities of 2020.
- Supports the deployment of clean transportation fuel technologies through a carefully designed program that reduces the carbon intensity of fuel used in the state, while cutting down pollutants that harm public health.



SB 6036: Providing opportunities for drought mitigation using trust water rights.

OPPOSE

Senate Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks: *Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 14th*

- Allows donations of water to the state trust water right program to be earmarked for “drought mitigation” despite not being fully reviewed by the Department of Ecology to determine their validity.
- There are better ways to promote drought mitigation that don’t risk impacting instream flows and salmon.



SB 6147: Concerning the replacement of shoreline armoring.

SUPPORT

Senate Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks: *Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 14th*

- Requires consideration of environmentally friendly armoring when replacing an existing bulkhead.
- Shoreline armoring has a major impact on Puget Sound.



SB 6210: Concerning antifouling paints on recreational water vessels.

SUPPORT

Senate Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks: *Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 14th*

- The environmental community reluctantly supports a five-year delay on the current statutory phase-out date of copper antifouling paint to gather more information on alternatives and educate boaters.
- While copper antifouling paint is effective in reducing the growth of organisms on vessel hulls, it is extremely toxic to salmon and other marine creatures.



Z-0701.1: Concerning payments in lieu of real property taxes by the department of the fish and wildlife.

SUPPORT

Senate: Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks: *Public Hearing on Thursday, January 16th*

- Moves WDFW PILT program funding to the State Treasurer (similar to DNR PILT), rather than paying out the program annually through WDFW's budget.
- Recommended by Department of Revenue and in-place for 19-21 budget, a permanent move to the State Treasurer will provide more certainty for land acquisitions, which provide important statewide conservation and recreation benefits.



Z-0798.1: Amending state greenhouse gas emission limits for consistency with the most recent assessment of climate change science.

SUPPORT

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

- 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.



S-5205.1: Creating an exemption from shorelines substantial development permit requirements for single-family residential protective marine bulkheads.

OPPOSE

Senate Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks: *Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 14th*

- Last session, the legislature passed a bill to close this protection loophole in order to improve habitat for the Puget Sound food web.
- This bill is a step backward and weakens efforts to recover salmon and orcas.

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.

