WEEK OF JANUARY 20, 2020

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 2020 as the Legislative Session progresses.

Senate Committee Action

SB 6135: Concerning system reliability under the clean energy transformation act (CETA).

OPPOSE

Senate Environment, Energy & Technology: Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 21st

- Accelerates the reliability study specified in CETA from 2024 to 2022, which is premature.
- CETA deliberately staged the reliability study to be undertaken after all other rulemakings and studies were complete to ensure current data and assumptions for the reliability study.
- Requiring stakeholders to try to create a reliability study while working on all other actions will create confusion and result in a weak report.

SB 6147: Concerning the replacement of shoreline armoring.

SUPPORT

Senate Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks: Possible Executive Session

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

SB 6213: Concerning certain expanded polystyrene products.
SUPPORT
Senate Environment, Energy & Technology: Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 21st
- Bans the use of styrofoam food service and packaging materials.
- Hundreds of cities or counties across the United States, including 9 in Washington, and 3 states have already passed styrofoam laws.
- Reduces a range of environmental impacts including those on marine organisms, litter, and overflowing landfills.

SB 6222: Concerning commercial property assessed clean energy and resilience financing (C-PACER).
SUPPORT
Senate Environment, Energy & Technology: Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 22nd
- Authorizes counties to establish C-PACER programs, which can finance energy efficiency and clean energy renovations, as well as resiliency measures such as seismic retrofits and fire protection.
- Brings a proven financing tool to Washington State used in more than 20 other states to enable deeper clean energy improvements and public safety retrofits that may not happen otherwise in commercial, nonprofit, and multifamily properties.

SB 6260: Concerning tribal traditional and cultural interests in water resources.
SUPPORT
Senate Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks: Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 21st
- Creates a new mechanism to quantify tribal water rights and ensure that they are not impaired.
- Protects important tribal cultural interests and protects instream flows necessary for the survival of threatened salmon species.

SB 6272: 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 Tuesday, January 21st
- 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.

SB 6352: Eliminating expedited processing of alternative energy resource facilities before the energy facility site evaluation council.
OPPOSE
Senate Environment, Energy & Technology: Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 22nd
- Unfairly prohibits expedited review for renewable facilities, while retaining it for any other (usually fossil fuel) facilities even if the renewable facility clearly has no or little environmental impact.
- Impedes state efforts to achieve renewable energy goals.

SB 6360: Eliminating exemptions from restrictions on the use of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in firefighting foam.
SUPPORT
Senate Environment, Energy & Technology: Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 22nd
- Removes exemptions from existing law that allow PFAS-containing firefighting foams to be sold for use at oil facilities, chemical plants, and airports.
- Protects public health, firefighter health, drinking water supplies, and other bodies of water including Puget Sound from toxic PFAS chemicals.

**SB 6464: Concerning state building code council membership.**

**OPPOSE**

Senate Local Government: *Public Hearing on Thursday, January 23rd*

- Adds four voting legislative members to the State Building Code Council, politicizing a technical body that addresses the health, safety, and efficiency of new building construction in the state.

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**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.