Hot List for the Washington State House of Representatives

The Environmental Priorities Coalition is a network of over twenty leading environmental groups in Washington that influence policy at the state level. Our coalition prepares a weekly Hot List as a regular communication for legislators detailing our positions on our highest priority issues for the upcoming week.

Please feel free to contact me at clifford@ctassociates.org if you have any questions. The Hot List can also be found here – along with an archive of previous Hot Lists.

HB 2505
SB 5323
SB 6147
SB 6213
SB 6278
SB 6488
SB 6528
SB 6613

House Committee Action

HB 2505: Extending the business and occupation tax exemption for amounts received as credits against contracts with or funds provided by the Bonneville power administration and used for low-income ratepayer assistance and weatherization.
SUPPORT
House Finance: Possible Executive Session
• Re-establishes a B&O tax exemption for BPA-credited funds to utilities to reimburse for conservation and demand-side management programs, as long as the amount that would otherwise be owed in taxes is used for the purposes of low-income ratepayer assistance and weatherization.

SB 5323: Reducing pollution from plastic bags.
SUPPORT
House Environment & Energy: Possible Executive Session
• One of the four environmental community priorities of 2020.
• Creates a statewide ban on carryout plastic bags, encouraging use of recycled paper and reusable bags.
• Protects marine life, reduces litter, and prevents problems at recycling and composting facilities.

SB 6147: Concerning the replacement of shoreline armoring.
SUPPORT
House Rural Development, Agriculture & Natural Resources: Public Hearing on Tuesday. February 25th
Requires consideration of environmentally friendly armoring when replacing an existing bulkhead. Shoreline armoring, such as marine bulkheads, causes significant harm to critical nearshore habitat for marine fish including salmon.

**SB 6213: Concerning certain expanded polystyrene products.**
**SUPPORT**
House Environment & Energy: *Public Hearing on Tuesday. February 25th*
- Bans expanded polystyrene food service products, coolers, and packing materials.
- Adequate substitutes for these polystyrene products exist that are far less harmful to the environment.

**SB 6278: Concerning water withdrawals for commercial bottled water production.**
**SUPPORT**
House Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources: *Public Hearing on Wednesday. February 26th*
- Effectively prohibits issuance of water rights permits for water bottling plants.
- Prevents new water bottling plants from proliferating in Washington, effecting small rural community water supplies necessary for both agriculture and threatened salmon species.

**SB 6488: Concerning aerial herbicides in forestlands.**
**SUPPORT**
House Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources: *Public Hearing on Tuesday. February 25th*
- Evaluates non-chemical alternatives to pesticide use on forestlands.
- Provides clarification on the standards to protect adjacent landowners and communities from aerial pesticide exposure.

**SB 6528: Concerning the prevention of derelict vessels.**
**SUPPORT**
House Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources: *Public Hearing on Wednesday. February 26th*
- Enhances DNR’s derelict vessel program, offering new tools to prevent harm and improve enforcement of existing laws.
- Derelict vessels often capsize releasing oil and other toxic waste into Puget Sound and other bodies of water.

**SB 6613: Concerning the inspection of marine aquatic farming locations.**
**SUPPORT**
House Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources: *Public Hearing on Wednesday. February 26th*
- Allows DFW to recover fees to support inspections and monitoring of these facilities.
- Net Pens contribute to water pollution and can be incubators for disease that can be fatal to native salmon.