

WEEK OF JANUARY 11, 2021



for the
**Washington State
Senate**

The Environmental Priorities Coalition is a network of over twenty leading environmental groups who lobby in Olympia. In a virtual Legislative Session, this weekly “Hot List” for legislators, which details our highest priorities each week, should prove to be particularly helpful to you.

Please feel free to contact Clifford Traisman (Washington Environmental Council and Washington Conservation Voters) at clifford@ctassociates.org if you have any questions regarding our positions on any bills affecting the environment, not just these. The Hot List can also be found [here](#). Thank you.

The Environmental Priorities Coalition’s Three Priorities of 2021



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. (Contact: Leah Missik, Climate Solutions, leah.missik@climatesolutions.org)



Clean & Just Transportation: Transportation is the state’s largest source of climate pollution, and we have a lot of needs in communities across the state to make sure people can move around safely, easily, and healthily. Clean and Just Transportation priority seeks to create a holistic transportation system with unconstrained revenue and investments that focuses on accessibility for all users, prioritizes equity, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions and environmental impacts. (Contact: Bryce Yadon, Transportation Choices Coalition, bryce@by-consulting.com)



Conservation Works: As a result of the pandemic, our state faces a multi-billion dollar budget shortfall with an upside down tax system unable to provide reliable funding. In times of crisis, we have a responsibility to rethink and rebuild our state budget to be more fair and equitable, keep people in their homes with basic needs met, and invest in win-win solutions that create jobs, improve public health, and protect the environment for current and future generations. The Conservation Works priority seeks to protect essential environmental programs from budget cuts and promote investments in responsible projects that tackle climate change, create good jobs, support salmon and orca recovery, and help communities chart their own course for a better future. (Contact: Darcy Nonemacher, Washington Environmental Council and Washington Conservation Voters, darcy@wecprotects.org)

Senate Committee Action



SUPPORT

*Senate Environment,
Energy & Technology*
Public Hearing
Wednesday, 1/13

SB 5008: 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.

- Re-establishes a B&O tax exemption for BPA-credited funds to utilities to reimburse for efficiency 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.



SUPPORT

*Senate Housing & Local
Government*
Public Hearing
Tuesday, 1/12

SB 5042: Concerning the effective date of certain actions taken under the growth management act.

- Delays the de-designation of farmland, expansion of urban growth areas, or changes to LAMIRDs until after the appeal process has concluded if the action is appealed.
- Prevents development or changes to occur that could be later found illegal under the Growth Management Act.

Partnership Agenda

Every year, the Environmental Priorities Coalition selects a *Partnership Agenda* to amplify policy bills that are led by communities and organizations outside the coalition and are important for environmental progress.

Voting Justice: The health of our democracy depends on allowing communities to elect leaders of their choice to represent their needs today and in the future. Issues like climate change, clean water, and conservation are important to many voters and people in the state, so improving access to voting is essential to finding smart solutions to these pressing problems. Two essential bills are before the legislature and should pass:

- **Voting Rights Restoration:** Automatically restores the freedom to vote to those under community supervision, after they have been released from total confinement under the Department of Corrections.
- **Voting Rights Act Preclearance:** Requires local governments to seek preclearance from the Attorney General for compliance with WA Voting Rights Act, before making changes to their voting methods and/or districting.

Lead: Washington Voting Justice Coalition

Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act: Where you live, your income, race or language ability should not determine how healthy and safe you are. But individual health and well-being indicators can vary significantly according to who we are and where we live. The HEAL Act is a recommendation from the Environmental Justice Task Force, and adds an essential racial equity lens to the environmental program work done by the state.

Everything from culturally appropriate public engagement to how implementation and enforcement of environmental is conducted to funding prioritization will be strengthened to better serve the public. *Lead:* Front and Centered

The Working Families Tax Credit/Recovery Rebate Campaign: This is a statewide effort to enact and fund an updated Working Families Tax Credit/Recovery Rebate in the 2021 session. This campaign is driven by a diverse coalition of over 30 organizations representing labor groups, grassroots organizers, healthcare workers and caregivers, food and economic justice advocates, survivors of domestic violence, and communities of color. The Working Families Tax Credit coalition is deeply committed to economic justice and making sure that our state prioritizes flexible, direct cash assistance to low-and moderate-income earners who are most affected by our state's upside-down tax code and who are also most affected by the current public health and economic crisis. *Lead:* Washington Budget and Policy Center

Worker Protections Act: A critical way to hold corporations accountable is to protect whistleblowers and provide workers with different tools to push back against discrimination, wage theft, or dangerous working conditions. Unfortunately, worker protections have been weakened at the federal level, putting workers at risk. This bill helps to fill gaps from the federal rollbacks by allowing *qui tam* enforcement of worker protection laws, which means people harmed or concerned about violations can bring the corporation to court for an independent review and decisions on how to make things right. *Lead:* Washington State Labor Council

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.

