
Enviro SENATE Hot List - Week of January 12, 2026

From Hotlist - Washington Conservation Action <hotlist@waconservationaction.org>

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To Hotlist - Washington Conservation Action <hotlist@waconservationaction.org>

WEEK 1: JANUARY 12, 2026



Senate HOT LIST

The [Environmental Priorities Coalition](#) is made up of 26 statewide environmental organizations working to safeguard Washington's environment and the health of our communities through policy and budget advocacy at the Washington State Legislature. During legislative session, we send you this weekly "Hot List" as a tool to easily identify environmental community priorities that are up for action in the coming week.

If you have any questions regarding our position on these bills or other bills affecting the environment, please reach out to state lobbyist Clifford Traisman at clifford@ctassociates.org.

Introducing the 2026 EPC Priorities



Protecting Climate and Environmental Health Funding

With the state budget shortfall, climate and environmental programs are at risk of deeper funding cuts and diversions. We **OPPOSE** the Governor's proposed diversion of \$569 million in Climate Commitment Act funding. Climate and environmental funding make up a small portion of the overall state budget, yet the benefits affect everyone in the state through clean air and clean water, reduced energy bills, and well-paying jobs. The 2026 budget must use dedicated funding sources for their intended purposes.

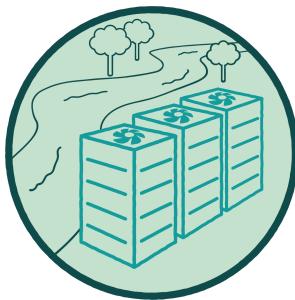
Restore Wildfire Resilience Funding



In 2021, the state Legislature passed HB 1168, committing \$125 million each biennium to meet the challenges of wildfire through 2029. These investments are working. They support firefighters' ability to better manage fire. They have improved the health of nearly 90,000 acres of forests. They invest in community-led solutions for wildfire resilience. However, the 2025-2027 state biennial budget cut this funding commitment in half. This threatens to reverse hard won progress against the growing threat of catastrophic wildfire. It unfairly places the burden back on communities, leaving them to deal with the costs of inaction.

To protect livelihoods and landscapes, the Legislature must restore full funding to the Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration, and Community Resilience Account.

Data Centers, Environmental Protection, and Affordability



Data center growth in Washington poses a rapidly growing challenge. These huge facilities have the potential to impact our climate and clean energy goals, energy affordability and reliability, the environment, and communities. Yet, the right protections and incentives could hold data centers to a high standard, one that centers communities and the environment while also fostering innovative solutions. To address this challenge and this opportunity, the Legislature should focus on a package of data center-focused policies that will protect and further our state's climate and clean energy laws and goals; protect ratepayers from financial and reliability impacts; minimize impacts to communities and natural resources including air, water, and salmon; and maximize benefits to communities.

Bottles and Cans Recycling Refund Act



Beverage containers, a large component of our state's waste, litter Washington's freeways, our waterways, and our public spaces. Only 30% of beverage containers are currently recycled in the state. The Recycling Refund Act will reduce litter and increase recycling rates in Washington by incentivizing recycling and pulling beverage containers into a clean recycling stream separated from other materials. Consumers would pay a 10-cent deposit on most beverage containers and be refunded that 10 cents back when they bring containers to convenient drop-off locations to be recycled or reused.

Senate Committee Action



SUPPORT

Senate Environment,
Energy & Technology:
Public Hearing on
Wednesday, January 14

SB 5965: Reducing environmental impacts associated with bags provided to customers at retail establishments.

Washington's plastic bag law, passed in 2020, has not been effective in reducing the amount of plastic used in bags at check out. We need to act to upgrade the law, completely banning film plastic bags at checkout and increasing the charge for paper bags to 20 cents.

The Bag Law amendment bill (SB 5965 / HB 2233), championed by Rep. Parshley and Sen. Bateman, would also make sure that 3rd party delivery services (such as Door Dash and Grub Hub) comply with the intent of the law.

Plastic bags are not able to be recycled in our current recycling system and are also a large component of litter and plastic pollution in the environment.



OPPOSE

Senate Environment,
Energy & Technology:
Public Hearing on
Wednesday, January 14

SB 5975: Providing consumer access to safe cookware and interstate and international trade certainty in the regulation of lead in cookware.

This bill guts Washington's 2025 law that protects the health of families from toxic lead in cookware. The Lead in Cookware Safety Rollback bill disregards a bi-partisan compromise; guts clear, enforceable standards; and gives industry dangerous discretion.



SUPPORT

Senate Environment,
Energy & Technology:
Public Hearing on
Tuesday, January 13

SB 5982: Updating provisions for consumer-owned utilities, including port districts, and affected market customers under the clean energy transformation act.

Closes a loophole to ensure that electricity generators comply with CETA (100% clean electricity), including port district utilities and utilities with one customer. This ensures fair treatment and compliance with our climate laws.



OPPOSE

House Environment &
Energy:
Public Hearing on
Tuesday, January 13

SB 6056: Exempting utility service vehicles from certain motor vehicle emission standards.

Weakens our clean vehicle standards by exempting vehicles used by utilities, allowing them to pollute more.

