



Dated: 2/3/11

ACTION ALERT – Communicate Your Concerns About Banning The Sale Of Fertilizer Containing Phosphorous

A hearing on HB 1489 aimed at banning the sale of fertilizer containing phosphorous has been scheduled for Friday, February 4 at 1:30 pm in the John L. O'Brien Building, Room C, Olympia.

If you are able to attend, please contact WALP's lobbyist, Heather Hansen, regarding your availability to testify. Heather may be contacted at heather@wafriends.org or (360) 480-5567.

If you are not able to attend the hearing, please telephone or write your legislators immediately to let them know your position on SB 5194 and HB 1489.

If you do not already know who your legislators are, use the following link to find your legislators: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/Default.aspx>.

You may also find your legislators' e-mail addresses using the e-mail directory for all legislators located at: <https://dlr.leg.wa.gov/MemberEmail/Default.aspx>.

Also to help get you started, attached are a couple sample letters for you to personalize.

Concerns with the HB 1489 & SB 5194 banning the sale of fertilizer containing phosphorous:

- 1) The intent section contains scientifically inaccurate statements; creating a false precedent that turf fertilizer is a significant surface water pollutant and is not necessary for a healthy lawn.
- 2) It grants the authority to regulate fertilizer sales and use to the Department of Ecology. (Currently, the Department of Agriculture regulates fertilizer content and registers it for sale.)
- 3) It changes the definition of fertilizer used by the Department of Agriculture, creating confusion.

- 4) It is inconsistent and will be ineffective because it exempts “natural organic sources”. Organic products are high in phosphorous. The ecosystem cannot tell the difference. All fertilizer should be regulated equally.
- 5) It fails to recognize the expertise of trained lawn care professionals, who should not be prohibited from providing quality service to their customers, including publicly owned golf courses, parks, and sports fields.
- 6) As written, it bans the **use** of phosphorous fertilizer for forestry, house plants, shrub beds, golf courses, sports fields, and other uses. It is unclear as to private commercial property.
- 7) It bans the **sale** of phosphorous fertilizer for flower and vegetable gardens, forestry, house plants, shrub beds, golf courses, sports fields, and many other uses.
- 8) It bans retailers, including farm stores and ag dealers, from **displaying any type** of fertilizer containing phosphorous.
- 9) It fails to address the primary causes of impaired water quality. Regulating something because it’s easy without addressing root causes of the problem accomplishes nothing.

To read the full bill click: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2011-12/Pdf/Bills/House%20Bills/1489.pdf>.

Be Heard In Olympia – Attend WALP’s 2011 Legislative Day!

It’s not too late to join your trade association in one **of the most important days of the year for landscaping professionals – WALP’s 2011 Legislative Day – February 9th**.

In attending you will learn more about the phosphorous fertilizer bill and other critical legislation coming up in the 2011 Legislative Session that could affect the Landscaping Industry and your business.

You will also be provided with tips and tools that will help you communicate with your elected officials about the issues that matter.

To attend and be provided with instructions on how to make appointments with your legislators to let them know what you think about the issues they are facing this year, and, most important, to help demonstrate the unity and strength of the “Green Industry”, **send in the attached registration form today**.

Questions on any of the topics addressed in this “WALP Watch”? Contact the WALP Office at info@walp.org or (425) 967-0729.