



Counties Support SB 5993

REFORMING THE FINANCIAL STRUCTURE OF THE MODEL TOXICS CONTROL PROGRAM



MTCA is critical to maintaining a healthy environment across Washington

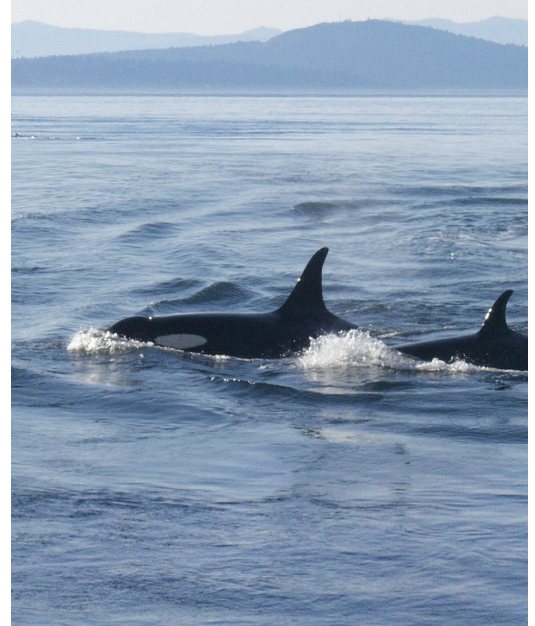
Toxic cleanup and prevention programs are authorized by the **Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)** and funded by the **Hazardous Substance Tax (HST)**.

MTCA authorizes a broad range of toxic cleanup, management and prevention activities by state and local governments. HST is applied to hazardous substances like petroleum products, pesticides and others.

MTCA makes local programs work, including:

- ✓ creating and implementing comprehensive solid waste management plans
- ✓ recycling programs
- ✓ hazardous waste programs
- ✓ enforcement and clean up of illegal dumps and toxic sites

We all benefit when polluted lands are cleaned up with the help of MTCA. Properties designated as dangerous and unusable can be repurposed to provide needed jobs and even housing.



The Problem



Funding for local toxics programs and toxic site cleanup isn't keeping up with the need. At the same time, a dedicated funding source for stormwater control projects and programs doesn't exist.

Most of the revenue received for MTCA from the HST comes from the tax on petroleum products. This tax has remained unchanged since its inception. The revenue has been volatile over the years, as wholesale oil prices rise and fall, making stable funding challenging.

In recent years when revenues were high, \$75 million in General Fund programs were paid for by MTCA instead. Additionally, funds have been diverted for other uses. Diverted funding was not repaid, and programs were not moved back to the General Fund. As a result, MTCA is over-appropriated.

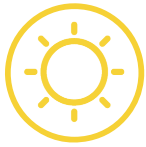
Toxic cleanup and prevention programs and projects were cut.

Public debt is being used for toxic cleanups and to prevent stormwater pollution.



Counties Support SB 5993

REFORMING THE FINANCIAL STRUCTURE OF THE MODEL
TOXICS CONTROL PROGRAM



The Solution

SB 5993 creates stability & sustainability for MTCA, enhances transparency and accountability, creates jobs and improves our environment.

Passage of SB 5993 will accomplish the following:

- ✓ Reduce revenue volatility by modernizing the tax on petroleum-based products from value-based to **volume-based**.
- ✓ Improve funding for toxic cleanup and prevention programs and projects by an estimated **\$225 million** per biennium.
- ✓ Control costs by **ending the use of public debt** to pay for toxic cleanup projects and program operations.
- ✓ **Increase bonding capacity** in the State Capital Budget for other needed state and community projects.
- ✓ **Assure funding is sustainable** by implementing an annual fiscal growth factor.
- ✓ Resolve concerns by utilizing MTCA funding for its **intended purposes**, ending diversions and appropriations for unrelated programs.
- ✓ Restore and maintain funding for critical state and local programs to **prevent new toxic contamination**.
- ✓ Invest in toxic site cleanups for **improved health, housing and economic development**.
- ✓ Create a **reliable, predictable and dedicated funding program** for our state's most significant environmental health threat – stormwater pollution control.

WSAC urges your support of SB 5993

