Dear South Carolina Conservationist,

Welcome to our First Conservation Scorecard, which will tell you how your state legislators voted - or failed to vote - on the important issues that affect our clean air, clean waters, quality of life and public health.

Perhaps the biggest victory in the 115th session of the General Assembly was full funding for the Conservation Bank, which protects significant natural or historic lands. Other victories were in defeating legislation that would have been very damaging to the environment - from the wetlands "destruction" act to legislation to remove safeguards on factory hog and poultry operations.

Our First Conservation Scorecard reveals that the average House score for protecting the environment is a failing 41%. The House passed numerous anti-environmental measures and sent them to the Senate, where they were either rejected or stalled by Senators who understand the relationship between South Carolina's natural resources and citizens' quality of life. We appreciate the Senate's role in stopping damaging legislation, but we clearly have a long way to go in keeping citizens informed on their elected representatives' performance, when we can only identify one recorded conservation vote in the Senate for 2003 and 2004.

Conservation Voters of South Carolina was formed to be the political voice of the conservation community. Our goal is to have a conservation majority in the legislature by 2010, so this First Conservation Scorecard will serve as a baseline in future years against which to measure our progress.

South Carolina's beautiful beaches and wetlands, rivers and rich farmlands, scenic forests and mountains are at risk. Between 1992 and 1997, for example, over half a million acres were converted to development. Decisions about our future are taking place amid large state budget shortfalls, and our elected officials must be reminded that our outdoor resources support our tourism economy.

If more South Carolinians hold legislators accountable, our legislators will vote more often to protect our clean air, water and quality of life. Your help is essential to change the conservation ethic at the Statehouse and make conservation count! Please check out our "to do" list and consider joining Conservation Voters so together we can improve our legislators' environmental scores and protect our natural heritage.

Sincerely yours.

Carol Ervin President

Ann Timberlake

Executive Director Can J. Barbardo

Board of Directors

Ann Timberlake Executive Director, Columbia

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Dr. Mark Salley Vice Chair, Columbia

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Dana Beach Charleston

Elliott Close Rock Hill

Wade Crow Spartanburg

Harry Dalton Rock Hill

Rab Finlay Thompson Columbia

Knox Haynsworth Greenville

Dell Isham Columbia

Jay James Darlington

Harriet Keyserling Beaufort

Lee Manigault Charleston

Jim Rex Winnsboro 2003-2004 1st Edition

Senate Noteworthy

The fact that anti-environmental House-passed bills were not adopted in the Senate is a great credit to the wisdom of our Senators, which we appreciate.

Unfortunately, we can't present a Senate scorecard because there was only one significant recorded environmental vote during the entire session. Since it takes only five Senators to ask for a recorded vote, we urge Senators to demand more recorded votes on conservation issues. South Carolina citizens deserve to know where their Senators stand on important issues that affect their quality of life.

SENATE VOTES TO STOP MORE NUCLEAR WASTE

South Carolina almost said "yes", again, to importing more nuclear waste for burial at the Chem-Nuclear facility in Barnwell. In the Appropriations Bill, the House tripled the volume of nuclear waste that could be buried at Barnwell.

Withstanding intense pressure by business lobbyists, twelve Senators refused to join the twenty-two who were pushing to triple the nuclear waste capacity at Barnwell. Just one more vote would have given the two-thirds majority needed to increase nuclear waste dumping in our state. After the Senate action, Rep. James Smith (D-Richland) swiftly got a House vote against the Barnwell proviso, effectively killing further attempts to increase capacity at the site.

Scoring this one vote would not provide an adequate reflection of the Senators' conservation records. However, we believe you need to know how your Senator voted on this critical public health and safety issue.

SENATORS VOTING TO HOLD THE LINE ON NUCLEAR WASTE:

John Courson (R-Richland)

Dick Elliott (D-Horry)

Greg Gregory (R-Lancaster)

Larry Grooms (R-Berkeley)

Wes Haves (R-York)

Darrell Jackson (D-Richland)

Jake Knotts (R-Lexington)

John Kuhn (R-Charleston)

Gerald Malloy (D-Darlington)

Glenn McConnell (R-Charleston)

Glenn Reese (D-Spartanburg)

Vince Sheheen (D-Kershaw)

Visit our website at www.conservationvotersofsc.org to see who voted to increase storage and who missed the vote.

SENATE RESTORES FULL FUNDING TO CONSERVATION BANK

An unprecedented coalition of more than 45 business and conservation organizations succeeded in getting the Conservation Bank Act passed in 2002, with funding to begin in 2004. Despite Governor Mark Sanford's urging, the House initially allocated 75% of the Bank's projected \$10 million for other budget items. Twelve Senators joined Senators Courson and Drummond at a press conference urging their colleagues to restore the funds and honor the funding commitment they had made in 2002. A finance subcommittee, composed of Senators Arthur Ravenel (R-Charleston), Phil Leventis (D-Sumter), John Drummond (D-Greenwood) and Yancey McGill (D-Kingstree) voted unanimously to restore the funding. Then, Senator Hugh Leatherman's (R-Florence) full Finance Committee agreed as did Senate President Glenn McConnell (R-Charleston). The Conference Committee composed of Senators Leatherman, Thomas Alexander (R- Oconee) and Linda Short (D-Chester) and Representatives Bobby Harrell (R-Charleston), Bill Clyburn (D-Aiken) and Dan Cooper(R-Anderson) upheld the decision. The House went along with the Senate to support the final budget and fully fund this important program which protects wildlife habitat, historical properties, parks and farmland through voluntary purchase of lands or protective easements. We thank Conservation Bank supporters in the Senate and House for enabling South Carolina to protect significant lands at a time of rapid development in our state.



A Salute to Retiring Senator Arthur Rayenel...

We will miss Senator Arthur Ravenel, Jr., a true champion of environmental protection, as he retires this year after 29 years of public service in the Statehouse and in Congress.

House Bill Descriptions

LOCAL CONTROL/FACTORY HOG AND POULTRY OPERATIONS (H. 3555)

Would prevent counties from adopting ordinances, like greater setbacks between hog/poultry facilities and parks, churches, or schools that are more protective than current state regulations.

- 1. Bill initially defeated 49-52. Correct vote was no.
- Opponents succeeded in passing motion to adjourn, 52-51, to allow them time to garner more votes. Correct vote was no.

H.3555 passed the House in 2003, and died in the Senate in 2004.

RAIDING CONSERVATION TRUST FUNDS (H. 3749 - Appropriations Bill)

During 2003 budget deliberations, nearly \$16 million was taken from fifteen dedicated conservation trust funds. Some of these funds were voluntary donations made by citizens for a specific purpose, like protection of significant historic sites or endangered species habitat.

- 3. Motion passed 58-50 to not restore the Conservation Trust Funds. Correct vote was no
- **4.** Motion passed 73-35 to raid Heritage Trust Fund, the only state program that protects endangered species. Correct vote was no.
- 5. Motion passed 60-50 to not restore the Non-game Wildlife Fund, commonly known as the state income tax check-off option. Correct vote was no.

These House raids occurred in 2003 and were partially restored by the Senate.

LEGISLATIVE CONTROL OF AGENCY REGULATIONS (H. 3082)

This legislation would make it more difficult to pass environmental regulations (i.e. factory hog regulations) by eliminating the provision that makes their adoption automatic after legislators have 120 days to consider them. It also requires affirmative approval of all regulations by legislators.

6. Bill passed 74-33. Correct vote was no

H.3082 passed the House in 2003, was debated in the Senate in 2004 and died there.

ISOLATED WETLANDS PROTECTION (H. 4934 and H. 5061)

SC's isolated wetlands provide critical habitat to plants and animals, help in flood control, and clean our drinking and recreational waters. The developer's bill, H. 4934, would have quickly resulted in the loss of more than 75% of isolated wetlands in the coastal counties. In contrast to this "wetlands destruction act," state scientists at DHEC proposed regulations that simply restored wetlands protection that was in place for many years before a 2001 federal court decision.

- 7. H. 4934, the "wetlands destruction act," passed 59-42. Correct vote was no.
- **8.** The wetlands regulations were rejected 67-27. Correct vote was no.

Since neither the reasonable DHEC regulations nor the harmful developer's bill passed the Senate, isolated wetlands remain largely unprotected.

INCREASED NUCLEAR WASTE AT BARNWELL (H. 4925 - Appropriations Bill)

A Compact was adopted four years ago by three states to end SC's reign as the nation's nuclear dumping ground. Annual limits were set on nuclear waste to be buried at Chem-Nuclear, and only waste from these states would be accepted after 2008. The proposed amendment would triple the waste accepted at Barnwell and undermine the Compact.

Amendment to increase nuclear waste passed 68-48. Correct vote was no.

Senate rules required a two-thirds vote on the Barnwell budget proviso because it would have changed current law regulating storage capacity. The Senate vote lacked just one vote of meeting the two-thirds threshold.

PRIORITY INVESTMENT AREAS (H. 4354)

This bill requires local governments to coordinate infrastructure (things like water and sewer lines) planning before spending public money. It would increase efficiency and help plan for growth.

10. Bill passed 71-25. Correct vote was yes.

H.4354 failed to pass the Senate during the last days of the session.

SCORECARD 2003-2004 HOUSE

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Joe Brown (D-Richland)	73	55%	0	*	0	*	8	0	*	3	D.	*	100
Robert Brown (D-Charleston)	116	67%	•	*	0	*	*	*	0	0	*	*	
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*Pro environment vote

Anti-environment vote

E Excused absence Not voting (no penalty)

O Not voting (scored as anti-environment vote) Not a House member at the time of the vote

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House Members									-				
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Lonnie Hosey (D-Barnwell)	91	80%	*	*	*	*	*	*	Ü	*	3	*	
Leon Howard (D-Richland)	76	89%	*	Ŷ	*	*	*	*	*	•	*	*	
Chip Huggins (R-Lexington)	85	11%	3		-0	9	3	9	3	3	0	*	
Douglas Jennings, Jr. (D-Marlboro)	54	86%	*	*	E	E	E	*	*	0	*	*	
Thomas Keegan (R-Horry)	106	50%	*	*	0	3	0	0	*	*	3	*	The same
Kenneth Kennedy (D-Williamsburg)	101	44%	*	*	Û	Û	*	*	Û	•	Û	Û	
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Larry Koon (R-Lexington)	87	10%	Û	Û	Û	Û	Û	D	Û	Û	Û	*	
Bob Leach (R-Greenville)	21	11%	B	T.	Û	1	13	E	3	J.	- 3	*	
Brenda Lee (D-Spartanburg)	31	63%	•	0	*	*	*	E	*	0	*	0	
Chip Limehouse III (R-Charleston)	110	55%	•	0	*	3	*	4	0	*	*	*	
Lanny Littlejohn (R-Spartanburg)	33	40%	*	*	Û	Û	Û	Û	Û	Û.	*	*	
Walter Lloyd (D-Colleton)	121	67%	*		*		*	*	•	0	Û	3	
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Jay Lucas (R-Darlington) David Mack III (D-Charleston)	65	55%	*	*	Û	Û	*	Û	Û	- * un	*		
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Becky Rogers Martin (R-Anderson)	8	22%	3	*	3	3	3	3	•	3	-D	*	
E. DeWitt McCraw (D-Cherokee) Jim McGee III (R-Florence)	29	33%	*	*	Û	Ŷ	Û	Û	•	Û	Û	*	
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Walton McLeod (D-Newberry) James Merrill (R-Charleston)	40	100%	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Vida Miller (D-Georgetown)	99	60%	*	-0	*	.0	3	3	*	*	*	*	
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Joseph Neal (D-Richland)	44	100%	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	•	
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Becky Richardson (R-York)	48	90%	*	*	*	*	*	T.	9	0	*	3	
R. Thayer Rivers, Jr. (D-Richland)	122	78%	*	*	*		*	Û	*	*	*	*	
J. Todd Rutherford (D-Richland)	74	44%	*	*	•	0	•	0	*	•	0	0	
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Voting is a key responsibility of legislators and not voting may be a decisive factor in the outcome. We therefore count not voting as an anti-environment vote (O), but because other legislative responsibilities may have been the cause, the first non-vote (•) is not penalized.

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House Members												
Wallace Scarborough (R-Charleston)	115	44%	•	0	J.	3	3	3	*	*	*	*
John Scott, Jr. (D-Richland)	77	78%	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	•	Û	3
Vincent Sheheen (D-Kershaw)	52	83%	Û	*	*	*	*	*		-	-	-
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Phil Sinclair (R-Spartanburg)	35	22%	•	0	3	3	J	3	3	0	*	*
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lames E. Smith (D-Richland)	72	100%	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	•
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Doug Smith (R-Spartanburg)	32	13%	3	3	•	J.	0	3	E	0	3	*
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Jim Stewart, Jr. (R-Aiken)	86	0%	J.	3	J.	0	Û	T)	3	3	3	
Harry Stille (R-Abbeville)	11	30%	*	*	*	Û	Û	0	Û	Û	Û	D.
Scott Talley (R-Spartanburg)	34	60%	*	*	*	3	*	-0-	-0-	0	*	*
J. Adam Taylor (R-Greenville)	16	13%	Û	Û	Û	Û	Û	D.	•	E	Û	*
Michael Thompson (R-Anderson)	9	40%	*	*	0	3	*	8	0	3	*	3
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Lewis Vaughn (R-Greenville)	18	20%	3	3	3	3	4	Ð.	Û	. 0	*	*
Thad Viers (R-Horry)	68	11%	B	Û	B	Û	\$	Û	•	Û	Û	*
Bob Walker (R-Spartanburg)	38	0%	8	3	3	•	0	T.	4	T.	D.	0
David Weeks (D-Sumter)	51	100%	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
. Seth Whipper (D-Charleston)	113	89%	*	*	*	*	•	0	*	*	*	*
V. Brian White (R-Anderson)	6	0%	Û	1	Û	Ŷ.	Ŷ	Û	ŷ.	Û	Û	Û
Villiam Whitmire (R-Oconee)	1	10%	3	3	3	3	0	1)	3 -	-0	9	*
David Wilkins (R-Greenville)	24	10%	Û	Û	Û	3	T.	Û	Û	Û	Û	*
Billy Witherspoon (R-Horry)	105	10%	3	3	0	3	0	D.	B	3	3	*
Annette Young (R-Dorchester)	98	20%	*	D.	Û	Û	J.	0	0	13	Û	*

Scorecard Summary

EIGHT HOUSE MEMBERS SCORE 100%!

We congratulate Representatives Bill Clyburn, Joel Lourie, David Mack, Walton McLeod, Vida Miller, Jimmy Neal, James Smith and David Weeks for working to protect South Carolina's clean air, water and natural landscape and scoring 100%.

AVERAGES

The average House score was an embarrassing 41%, and both affiliation and geography were a factor.

- 53 Representatives scored above average: only 5 of the 53 are from the Upstate 39 were Democrats
 - 15 were Republicans
- 14 Representatives scored Zero:
 - 9 from the Upstate
 - 4 from the Midlands
 - 1 from the Coast

Needless to say, we believe the citizens all across South Carolina want their elected officials to improve their scores next year on issues that affect clean air, clean water and quality of life!

Visit www.conservationvotersofsc.org to learn the inside scoop of what happened to wetlands in the House...

You know the Score TAKE ACTION to make South Carolina's environment a political priority

- Read the Conservation Scorecard and share it with a friend.
- Contact my legislators to let them know how I feel about their work and about bills returning next session. Get contact information at www.conservationvotersofsc.org
- Write a letter to my local paper calling attention to my legislator's record.
- Visit www.conservationvoters.org to find out about events, volunteer and sign up for email action alerts.
- Attend the Conservation Leaders' Summit on November 21-22.

 More information is available at www.conservationvotersofsc.org
- Bring friends to the Conservation Lobby Day in April.

 More information will be available soon at www.conservationvotersofsc.org
- Join Conservation Voters of South Carolina today.

SUPPORT

Conservation Voters of South Carolina

Yes! Support CVSC's education and political accountability work.

We take on the tough fights to protect South Carolina's environment, but we can only win with you at our side. Join the voices of thousands of South Carolinians by becoming a CVSC member today.



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Please mail to: CVSC PO Box 50632 Columbia, SC 29250 or call us at 803-799-0716 if you have any questions.

CVSC is a 501(C)4 organization and contributions are not tax deductible.

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Conservation Voters of South Catolina

ABOUT CONSERVATION VOTERS OF SOUTH CAROLINA

The mission of Conservation Voters of South Carolina is to make protection of our natural resources a top priority for South Carolina voters, candidates and elected officials. We are an independent, non-partisan organization with a unique role as the political voice of South Carolina's conservation community.

Conservation Voters participates in the development of public policy, increases public awareness of the performance of legislators on environmental matters, and gives voters the information they need to hold their elected officials accountable.

Our Political Action Committee analyzes candidate questionnaires and voting records on the environment, endorses candidates, makes contributions and works to help elect candidates who are committed to the protection of South Carolina's natural resources.

Accountab

(n) responsibility to someone or for some activity, liable to be called to account answerable.

The board and staff of the Conservation Voters of South Carolina take the word accountability very seriously. This scorecard is designed to provide citizens with the information so they can separate true stewards of South Carolina's environment from those who just talk that way.

