CVSC

Conservation Voters of South Carolina

2007-2008

Conservation SCORECARD

Every conservation vote cast today is a vote cast for our children's future. Conservation Voters is a nonpartisan organization working to pass sensible laws to protect our environment and create a safe, clean and healthy future for South Carolinians.

IT'S TIME FOR CONSERVATION *LEADERSHIP*

Welcome to our Third Conservation Scorecard, which tells you how your legislators voted on important issues that affect our coast and countryside, clean air and water, safe communities and energy future.

Although we celebrate significant legislative victories, such as upholding the Atlantic Compact and reforming the Department of Transportation, what is different from just a few years ago is that conservation issues are some of the most talked about subjects in the lobby of the State House, on news and editorial pages, and in communities around South Carolina. That is true progress in a state that values old fashioned traditions.

Your support of Conservation Voters has made this possible. Our organization sends a unified message to legislators that they will be held accountable on votes that our conservation community agrees upon. Our Common Agenda connects over 26 conservation organizations working together on land and water use, air quality, energy efficiency, transportation and habitat protection.

Throughout the legislative session, we were asked, "Will this be a Scorecard vote?" or "How will this affect my score?" Policy makers are paying attention. This Scorecard is a tool for you to gauge how your legislators are performing.

While there has been considerable progress, there is still work to do before we enjoy a functional bi-partisan "conservation majority" at the State House. Although we are pleased that the average House score has risen 18 points or almost 27% over the 2006 average, we are disappointed that we have not one single recorded conservation vote in the Senate to report to you.

This is an election year in South Carolina and all Senate and House members are on the November ballot. If we are to have responsible conservation policies we must elect candidates who do more than vote with us on the easy bills. We must elect candidates who will lead and work to pass bills to manage our finite water resources, protect freshwater wetlands and demand sustainable development and energy efficiency.

Please visit our website for candidate endorsement announcements and contact us if you would like to get involved. We are counting on you to help us elect leaders with the vision to create a safe, clean and healthy South Carolina for future generations.

Ann Timberlake
Executive Director

LEGISLATURE MOVES GREEN

HOUSE SCORES JUMP 18 POINTS IN TWO YEARS FROM 49% TO 67%

35 Democrats score above average

Freshman class average is **76%**, Up 10 points compared to 2006 average

33 Republicans score above average

Democrats

74%

average score for 2007-2008
(UP 13 points)
13 are
BELOW average

Republicans

63%

average score for 2007-2008
(UP 21 points)
43 are
BELOW average

MAJOR VICTORIES

- Conservation Bank funding increased in 2007 and protected from cuts in 2008
- Atlantic Compact Upheld – defeat of H.3545 by unanimous Committee vote
- DOT Reform established criteria and priorities for new roads – S.355
- River shacks removed from state waters - H.3466
- Priority Investment Areas established for coordinated planning – S.266
- Energy Efficiency measures for green buildings, fleet management, state agency goals and wind feasibility study committee – H.3034, S.368, H.4766
- Incentives for purchase of Energy Star mobile homes, energy efficient products and recommendations for net metering – S.1141, S.1143, H.3395
- Coastal Zone Management Plan Upheld – Defeat of H.5029

COMPROMISES

- DHEC Mercury CAMR regulations – R.3083
- Automatic Stays for DHEC permit appeals protected – H.3575

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Surface water withdrawal permitting - S.428
- Protection of future Conservation Bank funding - S.1302
- Statewide protections for freshwater wetlands
- Renewable energy resources defined without including nuclear power- S.360
- Reform of outdated annexation laws
- Energy efficiency assistance for low income families (S.1076), state agency renewable energy goals (S.1140), green building standards for schools and commercial buildings (S.362/ S.377)
- Offshore Drilling Study Committee recommendations - H.3828

SENATE CHAMPIONS

The venerable rules of the Senate promote consensus building and contemplative action (or inaction), but the habit of only taking roll call votes upon the specific request of at least 5 Senators runs counter to accountability. We did not have a recorded vote on any conservation bill during the 2007-08 sessions. In lieu of publishing a statistical Senate Scorecard, Conservation Voters recognizes 12 Senate Champions, for their steadfast leadership on important issues.

Chip Campsen (R-Charleston)
...Father of the Conservation Bank and passionate advocate for saving water in our rivers for "bubbas, bass and boats."

John Courson (R-Richland)
...Host of annual 'conversations with conservationists' with Senate colleagues, defender of the Atlantic Compact and climate change leader

John Drummond (D-Greenwood)
...Protector of South Carolina's natural resources and advocate for adequate funding for state resource agencies

Greg Gregory (R-Lancaster)
...Remover of illegal river shacks from public waters and advocate for the ability of communities to pass local ordinances to protect their unique character

Larry Grooms (R-Berkeley)
...Reformer of the Department of Transportation and advocate for permitting water use and for protecting isolated wetlands

Phil Leventis (D-Sumter)
...Guardian of South Carolina's environment, opponent of hazardous and nuclear waste dumps and protector of wetlands and rivers

Joel Lourie (D-Richland)
...Defender of the Atlantic Compact, proponent of fair water permitting and protector of the automatic stay

Gerald Malloy (D-Darlington)
...Champion for clean air and clean water and for the rights of citizens to appeal unlawful permits

Larry Martin (R-Pickens)
... Rulemaker and advocate for land protection and coordinated planning for balanced growth

Glenn McConnell (R-Charleston)
...Master of the Senate floor, defender of the Atlantic Compact and promoter of energy efficiency

Clementa Pinckney (D-Jasper)
...Steward of the land and eloquent spokesman for responsible measures to reduce global warming

Vince Sheheen (D-Kershaw)
...Crafter of complicated legal compromises, from protecting the automatic stay to removing illegal river shacks

SENATE DISTINGUISHED DEEDS

We recognize Senators for specific Deeds that further the conservation agenda, including sponsoring bills, acting in committee or placing objections on anti-environmental bills.

When the House Agriculture Committee killed the bill to expand the Barnwell nuclear waste dump in 2007, Senators **Glenn McConnell, John Courson, Joel Lourie and Phil Leventis** hosted a press event in the State House lobby to reiterate that they would fight to uphold the Atlantic Compact if the issue arose in the Senate.

After contentious debate, Senators **Larry Grooms, Hugh Leatherman, Glenn McConnell, Tommy Moore and Greg Ryberg** played a major role in forging a compromise to ensure the passage of Department of Transportation reform (S.305).

Senators **Vince Sheheen, Greg Gregory, and Chip Campsen** guided the river shacks bill (H.3466) through the Senate once it was approved by the House.

Senators **Hugh Leatherman, Yancey McGill, John Land, Harvey Peeler, and John Courson** gave their unequivocal support for increasing Conservation Bank funding and succeeded in adding $5 million to the Bank's funds for 2007-08.

Senators **Hugh Leatherman, John Land and Harvey Peeler** worked with House Budget Conference members to temporarily suspend a provision that would have cut the Conservation Bank's 2008-09 funding.

Senator **Wes Hayes** introduced the water withdrawal permitting bill (S.428) and Senator **Danny Verdin** chaired Agriculture Committee hearings to move the bill forward. Senator **Chip Campsen** made a passionate plea in Committee for saving water in our rivers for "boats, bubbas and bass." When the bill was weakened, Senator **Larry Grooms** floated a compromise that failed causing Senator **Phil Leventis** to place an objection on the bill to stop its progress on the Senate floor.

Sen. **Glenn McConnell** introduced a comprehensive "Energizing the Future" package of bills, including S.1141 that will provide tax credits to consumers for the purchase of Energy Star manufactured homes through 2019.

We salute Senator **Jim Ritchie** as an energy efficiency pioneer. His 2007 green building bill and his 2008 bill to increase fuel efficiency in the state's fleet were both important first steps for SC's energy independence.

In 2007 Senator **Larry Martin** used his power as Rules Committee Chair to move the Priority Investment Area bill (S. 266) up on the Senate calendar as Senator **Chip Campsen** was guiding the bill through the Senate.

Senators **Chip Campsen, Catherine Ceips, Ray Cleary, Shane Massey, Glenn McConnell and Greg Ryberg** brokered a compromise on Rep. Roland Smith's bill, H.3030, to protect water and sewer service in rural areas.

Senators **Vince Sheheen, Linda Short, Chip Campsen, Brad Hutto, Phil Leventis, Joel Lourie, Gerald Malloy, Glenn McConnell and Nikki Setzler** forced a compromise on the administrative procedures bill (H.4328) that protected the ability of citizens to appeal unlawful permits that pollute our air and water.

House of Representatives VOTES

House Members	House District	2007-2008 Score	Average Conserva	A DOT Reform 99/0	B River Shacks 87/5	C Conservation Bank Funding 44/69	D Sustainable Construction Act 79/30	E Growth Management- P.I.A. 98/0	F Automatic Stay Provision 1st Veto Vote 66/44	G Automatic Stay Provision 2nd Veto Vote 92/26	H Energy Efficient Homes Veto Vote 99/0
				2007 Vote					2008 Vote		
Agnew, Paul (D-Abbeville)	11	86%	93%	★	●	★	★	O	★	★	★
Alexander, Terry (D-Florence)	59	57%	—	★	★	⇩	●	★	★	⇩	O
Allen, Karl (D-Greenville)	25	43%	28%	★	O	O	★	O	⇩	⇩	★
Anderson, Carl (D-Williamsburg)	103	75%	79%	★	★	⇩	★	★	★	⇩	★
Anthony, Michael (D-Union)	42	29%	51%	●	O	⇩	⇩	★	⇩	⇩	★
Bales, Dr. Jimmy (D-Richland)	80	57%	47%	★	●	⇩	★	O	★	⇩	★
Ballentine, Nathan (R-Richland)	71	100%	86%	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Bannister, Bruce (R-Greenville)	24	75%	63%	★	★	★	★	★	⇩	⇩	★
Barfield, Liston (R-Horry)	58	29%	15%	★	⇩	⇩	⇩	★	●	⇩	O
Battle Jr., Jim (D-Marion)	57	43%	49%	●	O	⇩	★	★	O	⇩	★
Bedingfield, Eric (R-Greenville)	28	38%	—	★	⇩	⇩	⇩	★	⇩	⇩	★
Bingham, Kenny (R-Lexington)	89	71%	49%	★	★	E	★	★	⇩	⇩	★
Bowen, Don (R-Anderson)	8	71%	—	●	★	★	★	★	⇩	⇩	★
Bowers, William (D-Hampton)	120	100%	86%	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	E
Brady, Joan (R-Richland)	78	88%	94%	★	★	★	★	★	★	⇩	★
Branham, Lester (D-Florence)	61	57%	69%	●	★	⇩	★	★	⇩	⇩	★
Brantley, Curtis (D-Jasper)	122	86%	—	★	●	★	★	★	★	O	★
Breeland, Floyd (D-Charleston)	111	88%	83%	★	★	★	★	★	★	⇩	★
Brown, Grady (D-Lee)	50	88%	73%	★	★	★	★	★	★	⇩	★
Brown, Robert (D-Charleston)	116	86%	84%	★	●	★	★	O	★	★	★
Cato, Harry (R-Greenville)	17	57%	30%	★	★	⇩	★	★	⇩	⇩	O
Chalk, Richard (R-Beaufort)	123	71%	52%	★	★	★	★	●	O	⇩	★
Clemmons, Alan (R-Horry)	107	63%	34%	★	★	⇩	★	★	⇩	⇩	★
Clyburn, Bill (D-Aiken)	82	83%	80%	★	★	⇩	●	E	★	★	★
Cobb-Hunter, Gilda (D-Orangeburg)	66	71%	61%	●	★	★	★	★	O	⇩	★
Coleman, Creighton (D-Fairfield)	41	71%	76%	★	★	★	●	★	★	⇩	O
Cooper, Dan (R-Anderson)	10	29%	19%	●	O	⇩	★	★	⇩	⇩	O
Cotty, Bill (R-Richland)	79	100%	82%	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Crawford, Kris (R-Florence)	63	63%	—	★	★	⇩	★	★	⇩	⇩	★
Daning, Joseph (R-Berkeley)	92	33%	—	—	—	—	—	—	⇩	⇩	★
Dantzler, Tom (R-Berkeley)	117	50%	31%	★	★	⇩	⇩	★	⇩	⇩	★
Davenport, Ralph (R-Spartanburg)	37	57%	45%	●	★	⇩	⇩	★	★	★	O
Delleney Jr., Greg (R-Chester)	43	43%	38%	★	●	⇩	⇩	★	⇩	⇩	★
Duncan, Jeff (R-Laurens)	15	57%	32%	★	★	★	⇩	★	⇩	⇩	E
Edge, Tracy (R-Horry)	104	14%	23%	●	O	⇩	★	O	⇩	⇩	O
Erickson, Shannon (R-Beaufort)	124	100%	—	—	—	—	—	—	★	★	★
Frye, Marion (R-Lexington)	39	43%	20%	●	O	⇩	★	O	★	O	★
Funderburk, Laurie (D-Kershaw)	52	100%	100%	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Gambrell, Michael (R-Anderson)	7	63%	—	★	★	★	⇩	★	⇩	⇩	★
Govan Jr., Jerry (D-Orangeburg)	95	75%	71%	★	★	★	★	★	⇩	⇩	★
Gullick, Carl (R-York)	48	100%	—	★	★	★	★	★	★	●	★
Hagood Jr., Ben (R-Charleston)	112	100%	93%	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Haley, Nikki (R-Lexington)	87	75%	66%	★	★	★	★	★	⇩	⇩	★
Hamilton, Glenn (R-Greenville)	20	29%	27%	★	⇩	⇩	⇩	★	⇩	⇩	●
Hardwick, Nelson (R-Horry)	106	57%	36%	●	★	⇩	★	★	⇩	⇩	★

LEGEND
★ 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

House Members	House Distri	2007-2008 S	Average Conse	DOT	Rive	Cons	Sust	Grov	Autc 1st Vete	Autc 2nd Ve	Ener Veto V
				A 99/0	B 87/5	C 44/69	D 79/30	E 98/0	F 66/44	G 92/26	H 99/0
				2007 Vote					2008 Vote		
Harrell, Bobby (R-Charleston)	114	57%	32%	★	●	⇩	★	★	⇩	⇩	★
Harrison, Jim (R-Richland)	75	71%	38%	★	★	★	★	★	⇩	⇩	●
Hart, Christopher (D-Richland)	73	100%	—	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Harvin, Cathy (D-Clarendon)	64	86%	93%	★	★	●	⇩	★	★	★	★
Haskins, Gloria (R-Greenville)	22	43%	33%	●	O	⇩	★	★	⇩	⇩	★
Hayes, Jackie (D-Dillon)	55	43%	43%	●	O	⇩	★	★	⇩	⇩	★
Herbkersman, Bill (R-Beaufort)	118	100%	83%	★	★	★	★	●	★	★	★
Hiott, David (R-Pickens)	4	71%	71%	★	★	★	●	★	⇩	⇩	★
Hodges, Kenneth (D-Colleton)	121	100%	67%	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Hosey, Lonnie (D-Barnwell)	91	88%	70%	★	★	⇩	★	★	★	★	★
Howard, Leon (D-Richland)	76	43%	50%	●	O	★	★	O	⇩	O	★
Huggins, Chip (R-Lexington)	85	75%	51%	★	★	★	★	★	⇩	⇩	★
Hutson, Heyward (R-Dorchester)	94	100%	—	—	—	—	—	—	●	★	★
Jefferson, Joe (D-Berkeley)	102	75%	63%	★	★	★	★	★	⇩	⇩	★
Jennings, Doug (D-Marlboro)	54	57%	70%	★	●	⇩	O	★	O	★	★
Kelly, Keith (R-Spartanburg)	35	88%	—	★	★	★	⇩	★	★	★	★
Kennedy, Ken (D-Williamsburg)	101	71%	61%	★	●	★	★	★	O	⇩	★
Kirsh, Herb (D-York)	47	75%	72%	★	★	★	⇩	★	★	⇩	★
Knight, Patsy (D-Dorchester)	97	86%	—	★	★	★	★	★	●	⇩	★
Leach, Bob (R-Greenville)	21	63%	47%	★	★	⇩	★	★	⇩	⇩	★
Limehouse, Chip (R-Charleston)	110	71%	70%	★	●	★	★	★	O	⇩	★
Littlejohn, Lanny (R-Spartanburg)	33	43%	47%	★	★	⇩	⇩	★	⇩	⇩	E
Loftis, Dwight (R-Greenville)	19	71%	24%	★	★	⇩	★	●	★	⇩	★
Lowe, Phillip (R-Florence)	60	71%	—	●	★	★	★	★	⇩	⇩	★
Lucas, Jay (R-Darlington)	65	63%	58%	★	★	⇩	⇩	★	★	⇩	★
Mack, David (D-Charleston)	109	67%	72%	●	★	★	O	★	⇩	★	E
Mahaffey, Joe (R-Spartanburg)	36	75%	57%	★	★	★	★	★	⇩	⇩	★
McLeod, Walton (D-Newberry)	40	100%	100%	E	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Merrill, Jim (R-Charleston)	99	57%	50%	⇩	●	★	⇩	★	⇩	⇩	★
Miller, Vida (D-Georgetown)	108	75%	92%	★	★	⇩	★	★	★	⇩	★
Mitchell, Harold (D-Spartanburg)	31	75%	75%	★	★	★	★	★	⇩	⇩	★
Moody-Lawrence, Bessie (D-York)	49	N/A	73%	E	E	●	O	E	E	E	E
Moss, Dennis (D-Cherokee)	29	63%	—	★	★	⇩	★	★	⇩	⇩	★
Mulvaney, Michael (R-Lancaster)	45	63%	—	★	★	⇩	★	★	⇩	⇩	★
Neal, Jimmy M. (D-Lancaster)	44	75%	87%	★	★	⇩	★	★	★	⇩	★
Neal, Joe H. (D-Richland)	70	71%	57%	●	★	★	★	★	★	⇩	O
Neilson, Denny (D-Darlington)	56	83%	71%	★	★	E	●	★	★	⇩	★
Ott Jr., Harry (D-Calhoun)	93	71%	48%	★	★	★	★	★	⇩	⇩	●
Owens, Phil (R-Pickens)	5	63%	31%	★	★	★	⇩	★	⇩	⇩	★
Parks, J. Anne (D-Greenwood)	12	71%	68%	★	★	★	E	★	⇩	⇩	★
Perry, Skipper (R-Aiken)	81	43%	19%	★	⇩	⇩	★	★	⇩	⇩	O
Phillips, Olin (D-Cherokee)	30	67%	38%	★	●	O	★	E	★	⇩	★
Pinson, Gene (R-Greenwood)	13	71%	55%	★	★	★	★	●	O	⇩	★
Pitts Jr., Ted (R-Lexington)	69	75%	42%	★	★	★	★	★	⇩	⇩	★
Pitts, Michael (R-Laurens)	14	50%	30%	★	E	●	O	★	⇩	⇩	★

Voting is a key responsibility of legislators and not voting may be a decisive factor in the outcome. We therefore count not voting (O) as an anti-environment vote. Because other legislative responsibilities, may have been the cause, the first non-vote (●) is not penalized.

House Members	House District	2007-2008 Scor	Average Conserva	DOT Re	River Sh	Conserv	Sustainz	Growth	Automa 1st Veto Vote	Automa 2nd Veto Vc	Energy I Veto Vote
				A 99/0	B 87/5	C 44/69	D 79/30	E 98/0	F 66/44	G 92/26	H 99/0
				2007 Vote					2008 Vote		
Rice, Rex (R-Pickens)	26	40%	31%	E	E	★	⇩	E	⇩	⇩	★
Rutherford, Todd (D-Richland)	74	57%	39%	★	●	★	★	★	O	⇩	O
Sandifer, Bill (R-Oconee)	2	63%	29%	★	★	⇩	★	★	⇩	⇩	★
Scarborough, Wallace (R-Charleston)	115	86%	60%	★	★	★	★	●	★	O	★
Scott, John (D-Richland)	77	100%	78%	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Sellers, Bakari (D-Bamberg)	90	100%	—	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	●
Shoopman, Phillip (R-Greenville)	18	50%	—	★	★	⇩	⇩	★	⇩	⇩	★
Simrill, J. Gary (R-York)	46	63%	57%	★	★	★	⇩	★	⇩	⇩	★
Skelton, B. R. (R-Pickens)	3	71%	62%	★	★	★	●	★	⇩	⇩	★
Smith, Donald (R-Aiken)	83	57%	50%	★	★	★	⇩	★	⇩	⇩	●
Smith, Fletcher (D-Greenville)	23	14%	5%	●	O	O	O	O	⇩	⇩	★
Smith, G. Murrell (R-Sumter)	67	57%	56%	★	⇩	★	●	★	⇩	⇩	★
Smith, Garry R. (R-Greenville)	27	57%	44%	★	★	●	⇩	★	⇩	⇩	★
Smith, J. Roland (R-Aiken)	84	57%	46%	★	★	★	⇩	●	⇩	⇩	★
Smith, James E. (D-Richland)	72	100%	100%	E	E	E	E	E	★	★	★
Smith, W. Doug (R-Spartanburg)	32	57%	34%	★	★	★	●	★	⇩	⇩	O
Spires, Kit (R-Lexington)	96	86%	—	●	★	★	★	★	★	⇩	★
Stavrinakis, Leon (D-Charleston)	119	100%	—	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Stewart, Jim (R-Aiken)	86	14%	10%	★	●	⇩	⇩	O	⇩	⇩	O
Talley, Scott (R-Spartanburg)	34	57%	50%	★	★	★	⇩	★	⇩	⇩	●
Taylor, Adam (R-Greenville)	16	75%	48%	★	★	★	★	★	⇩	⇩	★
Thompson, Michael (R-Anderson)	9	75%	53%	★	★	★	★	★	⇩	⇩	★
Toole, Mac (R-Lexington)	88	71%	50%	●	★	★	★	O	★	⇩	★
Umphlett, David (R-Berkeley)	100	57%	34%	★	★	★	⇩	●	⇩	⇩	★
Vick, Ted (D-Chesterfield)	53	57%	54%	★	●	⇩	★	★	O	⇩	★
Viers, Thad (R-Horry)	68	29%	23%	★	●	⇩	★	O	⇩	⇩	O
Walker, Bob (R-Spartanburg)	38	14%	9%	●	O	⇩	⇩	★	⇩	⇩	O
Weeks, David (D-Sumter)	51	71%	85%	★	★	●	★	★	⇩	⇩	★
Whipper, Seth (D-Charleston)	113	86%	81%	★	●	★	★	O	★	★	★
White, Brian (R-Anderson)	6	50%	26%	★	★	⇩	⇩	★	⇩	⇩	★
Whitmire, Bill (R-Oconee)	1	71%	55%	★	●	★	★	★	⇩	⇩	★
Williams, Robert (D-Darlington)	62	88%	—	★	★	⇩	★	★	★	★	★
Witherspoon, Billy (R-Horry)	105	29%	19%	●	★	⇩	⇩	O	O	⇩	★
Young, Annette (R-Charleston&Dorchester)	98	50%	29%	★	★	⇩	⇩	★	⇩	⇩	★

BILL DESCRIPTIONS

2007 VOTES

VOTE A

Department of Transportation Reform (S. 355) - 4/18/07

After this initial vote in the House, months of contentious debate ensued between the House and Senate and in conference committee until a compromise finally passed unanimously on the last day of the session. Four of the five reforms recommended by the conservation community were adopted: objective analysis and prioritization of transportation projects; consideration of alternative transportation solutions prior to moving forward with new projects; real public hearings held on large projects and promulgation of criteria and regulations to rank projects objectively.

The correct vote was yes

VOTE B

River Shacks Removal

(H. 3466) – 4/18/07

Abandoned and un-permitted river shacks have been an eyesore and a hindrance to river navigation for decades. Rep. David Umphlett led the way to enable DNR and Santee-Cooper to remove these polluting structures from our public waters within the next five years. Thanks are also due to Sens. Vince Sheheen, Greg Gregory, and Chip Campsen for leading the bill through a voice vote in the Senate.

The correct vote was yes.

VOTE C

Conservation Bank Funding

(H. 3620) – 3/14/07

During the House Budget debate in March, conservation lobbyists worked overtime to beat back numerous attempts to siphon away Bank funding. Particularly close was a notable vote attempting to divert Bank funds to mitigate for wetlands lost during construction of I-73. Speaking on behalf of the Conservation Bank were Reps. Bakari Sellers and Ben Hagood.

The correct vote was no.

VOTE D

Green Buildings

(H. 3034) – 3/1/07

Rep. Joan Brady and Sen. Jim Ritchie deserve praise for leading the way on energy efficiency by requiring all major state-funded facilities to meet LEED certification standards. Reps. Joan Brady and Harry Cato spoke in favor of the bill during the floor debate. The bill passed the Senate on a voice vote. The Governor's veto was overwhelmingly overridden.

The correct vote was yes.

VOTE E

Growth Management/ Priority Investment Areas

(S. 266) – 5/15/07

The passage of this planning reform was five years in the making and the result of deliberation with all stakeholders and the persistent leadership of Rep. Ben Hagood and Sens. Chip Campsen and Larry Martin. The bill requires coordination with local governments, school districts, DOT and public utilities to determine where to build new roads, sewers and schools. S.266 passed the Senate on a voice vote.

The correct vote was yes.

2008 VOTES

VOTES F & G

Automatic Stay Veto Votes

(H. 4328)

Legislative maneuvering in the Senate Judiciary Committee tacked a harmful amendment onto a bill aimed only at ecoding procedures of the Administrative Law Court. The new language threatened the temporary "automatic stay" that prevents irreversible, negative environmental impacts from occurring before citizens are granted the opportunity to present their case before a judge.

VOTE F – 5/29/08

When the Governor vetoed H.4328, the House initially sustained the veto because opponents failed to gather a two-thirds vote on the motion to override.

The correct vote was no.

VOTE G – 6/3/08

After intense lobbying by manufacturers, realtors, the Chamber of Commerce and the Ports Authority, the veto was overridden a few days later on a reconsideration vote

The correct vote was no.

When over 15 Senators committed to sustain the veto, bill supporters finally agreed to discuss a compromise. Senate friends brought the lawyers representing the conservationists and the business interests together to craft language that now gives citizens 30 days for a hearing if a request is made to lift a stay, requires Administrative Law Court judges to render a decision within a reasonable time period, and only limits appeals on certain permits. A substitute bill, H.3575 was utilized for passage on the last days of the session.

VOTE H

Energy Efficient Homes Veto

(S. 1141) – 6/25/08

Sen. Glenn McConnell's bill provides a $750 tax credit and eliminates sales tax for the purchase of ENERGY STAR certified manufactured homes through 2019. When the General Assembly returned to the State House on June 25, the Governor's veto of S.1141 was overridden unanimously in both the House and Senate.

The correct vote was yes.

House Honor Roll

100

REPRESENTATIVE

Nathan Ballentine (R/Richalnd)
Bill Bowers (D/Hampton)
Bill Cotty (R/Richland)
Shannon Erickson* (R/Beaufort)
Laurie Funderburk (D/Kershaw)
Carl Gullick* (R/York)
Ben Hagood (R/Charleston)
Chris Hart* (D/Richland)
Bill Herkbersman (R/Beaufort)
Ken Hodges (D/Beaufort)
Heyward Hutson* (R/Dorchester)
Walton McLeod (D/Newberry)
John Scott (D/Richland)
Bakari Sellers* (D/Bamberg)
James Smith (D/Richland)
Leon Stavrinakis* (D/Charleston)

100% Scores since 2003.

88

REPRESENTATIVE

Joan Rrady (R/Richland)
Floyd Breeland (D/Charleston)
Grady Brown (D/Lee)
Lonnie Hosey (D/Barnwell)
Keith Kelly* (R/Spartanburg)
Robert Williams* (D/Darlington)

86

REPRESENTATIVE

Paul Agnew (D/Abbeville)
Curtis Brantley* (D/Jasper)
Robert Brown (D/Charleston)
Cathy Harvin (D/Clarendon)
Patsy Knight* (D/Dorchester)
Wallace Scarborough (R/Charleston)
Kit Spires* (R/Lexington)
Seth Whipper (D/Charleston)

LOWEST SCORES

14

Tracy Edge (R-Horry)
Fletcher Smith (D-Greenville)
Jim Stewart (R-Aiken)
Bob Walker (R-Spartanburg)

83

REPRESENTATIVE

Bill Clyburn (D/Aiken)
Denny Neilson (D/Darlington)

* Denotes freshmen legislators

House Honorable Mention

Reps. **Paul Agnew, Laurie Funderburk, Robert Brown, Joan Brady, David Umphlett, Patsy Knight, Mac Toole, Ken Hodges, Ted Vick and Phillip Lowe** were key supporters of the Atlantic Compact on the Agriculture Committee and we thank Rep. **Jeff Duncan** for his leadership of the Subcommittee hearings. (*H.3545 died in the Agriculture Committee on a unanimous vote so there were no House or Senate floor votes*)

After contentious debate at the end of the 2007 session, Representatives **Mike Anthony, Jim Merrill, Harry Ott, Annette Young and Speaker Bobby Harrell** negotiated a compromise to ensure the passage of DOT reform.

Rep. **David Umphlett** led the charge to finally rid unsightly river shacks from South Carolina's public waters.

When attempts were made in the 2007 House budget debate to divert Bank funding to DOT highway construction mitigation, Reps. **Ben Hagood, Jeff Duncan, Ken Kennedy, Chip Limehouse, Leon Stavrinakis, David Umphlett, John Scott, Mac Toole, Bakari Sellers, Harry Ott, Bill Herbkersman, Dan Cooper, Tracy Edge, Denny Neilson and Seth Whipper** came to the rescue.

In 2008, Speaker **Bobby Harrell,** Ways and Means Chair **Dan Cooper** and Budget Subcommittee members **Adam Taylor, Bob Leach and Ken Kennedy** added Conservation Bank funding to the House budget for the first time ever – later struck by budget shortfalls..

When across the board agency cuts threatened to eliminate all funding for the Conservation Bank, Reps. **Dan Cooper, Jim Merrill and Joe Neal** worked with fellow Conference Committee members to protect base funding for 2009.

Reps. **Joan Brady and Harry Cato** pushed for the passage of the first green buildings legislation in 2007.

Rep. **Phillip Lowe** successfully sponsored legislation to require state agencies to reduce their energy consumption 20 percent by 2020.

Reps. **Dan Cooper and Laurie Funderburk** attempted to pass legislation to promote the use of fresh local and minimally processed foods in schools.

Reps. **Laurie Funderburk and Mac Toole** succeeded in passing legislation to require the SC Energy Office and the Office of Regulatory Staff to provide recommendations on "best practices" for establishing an effective net metering program.

With the encouragement of Reps. **Ben Hagood, Paul Agnew, Robert Brown, Jeff Duncan, Shannon Erickson, Laurie Funderburk, Ken Hodges, Chip Limehouse, Dwight Loftis, Phillip Lowe, Jim Merrill, Joe Neal, Harry Ott, Wallace Scarborough, John Scott, and Leon Stavrinakis,** the House voted 114-0 to remove nuclear power from the renewable energy definition, thereby protecting future incentives for alternative energy and renewables. *(S360 died in conference committee)*

We salute Rep. **Ben Hagood**, our steadfast conservation champion, floor leader and chair of the Governor's Climate Committee. His perseverance over 5 long years led to the passage of the landmark Priority Investment Area bill to plan for growth. We will miss Ben in the House and await his return to public service.

We owe a special thank you to the 26 House members who withstood intense pressure from special interests and stood up for citizens' rights to appeal unlawful permits to pollute: **Paul Agnew, Nathan Ballentine, Bill Bowers, Robert Brown, Bill Clyburn, Bill Cotty, Ralph Davenport, Shannon Erickson, Laurie Funderburk, Ben Hagood, Chris Hart, Cathy Harvin, Bill Herbkersman, Kenneth Hodges, Lonnie Hosey, Heyward Hutson, Doug Jennings, Keith Kelly, David Mack, Walt McLeod, John Scott, Bakari Sellers, James Smith, Leon Stavrinakis, Seth Whipper and Robert Williams.** *(Vote G on the Scorecard)*

Opportunities for Leadership:

WATER &ENERGY

Nothing is more important than having clean water to drink. But while some South Carolina citizens face restrictions on watering their gardens, utilities and industries continue to suck unlimited amounts from our lakes and rivers. The only permit they need, strangely enough, is for the excess water they return to our rivers.

For two years the conservation community negotiated in good faith with the business community to forge consensus on a fair surface water-permitting bill. But those negotiations broke down when utilities and manufacturing interests laid claim to 80 percent of our surface waters, leaving just 20 percent for the public. Their greediness threatened not only our water-based tourism and sports fishing businesses, but the basic biological integrity of the ecosystems we depend on for recreation and drinking water.

South Carolina cannot afford to be shortsighted about water. Reliable water is essential to the health of our communities and the economy. Fishing is not just a popular pasttime; it is a high octane economic engine pumping $1.5 billion anually into South Carolina's economy. Anglers are responsible for over 25,000 jobs; many of them located in strapped rural counties.

It is time for our elected leaders to stand up to special interests and protect the public's right to clean, abundant water.

Water permitting is not the only opportunity for leadership. South Carolina remains one of the least energy efficient states in the nation. We consume more electricity than all but a handful of states, and consequently pay some of the highest utility bills in the country.

This state of affairs has a number of harmful consequences, not least among them our impact on climate change. Between 1990 and 2005, greenhouse gas emissions in South Carolina rose 39 percent, more than double the national average of 16 percent. Most of this increase can be blamed on inefficient homes, the lack of public transportation, and a reliance on dirty coal for much of our electricity.

Improving efficiency will not only save ratepayer dollars, it will help save the planet. The Governor's Climate, Energy and Commerce Advisory Committee just released its recommendations, and efficiency was the clear winner. For every ton of carbon emissions we remove from the atmosphere through efficiency, we actually save the taxpayer $26.

It is time for our elected leaders to enact a cost-effective and comprehensive energy policy that addresses construction, transportation, agriculture, waste management, and renewable energy. South Carolina is rich in biomass, solar, and wind. Tapping into our state's indigenous energy sources will make us more energy independent and secure.

Conservation Voters is pleased that over the last two years many of our Common Agenda priorities have been enacted. But it is possible to succeed at the State House and still fail to save what is special about living here.

It is time to ask members of the General Assembly, "What conservation issue will you lead on next session?"

EDUCATION + ACCOUNTABILITY =RESULTS

KNOW THE SCORE, TAKE ACTION.

One of the best ways to influence the voting record of elected officials is to regularly communicate with them. If your legislators got low scores, it's important to let them know what you think about their votes. And if they scored well, it's important to thank and support them. Be direct, courteous and polite in your communications and remember that the most important point is to let them know that you are paying close attention.

If you don't know who your legislators are, visit www.scstatehouse.net and click on "Find Your Legislator" in the left hand column on the home page.

SUPPORT PRO-CONSERVATION CANDIDATES

The Conservation Scorecard is a factor in candidate endorsements, in addition to CVSC-administered candidate questionnaires, personal interviews and research. We concentrate on the races where our resources can make a difference and we back our endorsements with expertise – assisting candidates with grassroots organizing, communicating directly with voters or helping get out the vote on Election Day. For more endorsement information, go to www.conservationvotersofsc.org.

BECOME A CONSERVATION VOTER AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE…. AT HOME, IN COLUMBIA, & ONLINE.

Political and legislative advocacy and education are year-round efforts. Conservation Voters Education Fund coordinates the **Common Agenda** process that brings over 26 environmental organizations together in support of legislative priorities that are presented to Senators and Representatives at the beginning of each session. In addition we email a weekly **Hotlist** that reports on who is doing what to move or derail important conservation legislation. We host **Lobby Teams** of volunteers who meet on Tuesdays to troop over to the State House and speak directly with decision-makers and we post key votes on our **Online Vote Tracker**. The tough fights to protect South Carolina's natural heritage and healthy future cannot be won without your support. Please use the enclosed envelope to become a member of Conservation Voters today or join online at www.conservationvotersofsc.org.

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