

2005 Legislative Scorecard



Conservation Council of North Carolina is a bipartisan political organization working on behalf of people who want to breathe clean air and drink clean water. We help elect state legislators who make public health and conservation a priority, and we advocate for sound environmental policies.

PO Box 12671 Raleigh, NC 27605 919.839.0006 ccnc@conservationcouncilnc.org www.conservationcouncilnc.org

The 2005 Long Session Overview

Holding Politicians Accountable. Welcome to the Conservation Council's scorecard for the 2005 legislative session. The Conservation Council produces this scorecard every year in order to hold our legislators accountable for their actions on environmental issues. The environment matters to North Carolina voters, and it should matter to the people *you* elect.

In November 2004, you voted for environmentally friendly candidates. When they asked for your support, they promised to protect our air and water. Have they followed through on their promises? Do they show leadership on protecting our air and water? Do they hold polluters accountable?

By using this scorecard, you are taking an important step as a voter: knowing how your elected officials voted on issues that matter to you. From the Great Smoky Mountains to the coastal waters and the rolling piedmont in between, we've got a great state to protect. Are our legislators responsible stewards of the magnificent natural resources we've been given here in North Carolina? Do they work to create a legacy for future generations of which we can be proud?

The Conservation Council hopes that you will use this scorecard to evaluate the performance of North Carolina's state legislators and make an informed decision about who to re-elect and who to defeat.

Long Session wrap up. The 2005 long session of the NC General Assembly stretched into the early days of September. For the environmental community, this legislative session was generally—though not entirely—successful. The legislature passed a significant drinking water protection act, two recycling bills, gave the Clean Water Trust Fund full funding at \$100 million, and set up a global warming commission.

On the downside, the "Schoolchildren's Health Act" became stalled in the State Senate after passing the House unanimously, the "Clean Cars" bill never saw the light of day, and legislation that would have increased the penalties that polluters pay when they violate state law was defeated in the House.

Even though this session was a mixed bag for the environ-

mental community, there were two developments that bode well for our future. First, this year's freshmen class included an unusually large number of pro-environment legislators—such as Senator Janet Cowell and Representatives Pricey Harrison, Grier Martin, Melanie Goodwin, and Susan Fisher. In another significant development, we continue to have the strong support of a small, but growing, group of Green Republicans who speak out strongly for sound environmental legislation.

Poisoned School: Protect Our Children

You probably heard about the Granville County high school that was closed for a week in October due to mercury contamination. The contamination occurred after students stole about half a pound of mercury from a science lab and were playing with this highly toxic substance. (FYI, mercury is so toxic that even one spilled tablespoon requires special cleanup techniques).

Following this incident, the state toxicologist called for a ban on mercury use in the classroom. **But guess what?** There is already a bill in the legislature that would do just that. "The Schoolchildren's Health Act" (H1502), sponsored by Rep. Grier Martin D-Wake, was a cornerstone bill for the Conservation Council this session. It passed the State House unanimously in May but became mired in the Senate Education Committee and failed to emerge for a vote.

While we were let down by the Senate's inaction, we believe the need for this bill is clearer than ever. Mercury is a very dangerous substance that should not be allowed in North Carolina's classrooms. The Conservation Council will be redoubling our efforts to get this bill passed of the Senate during the Short Session that begins May 9, 2006.

House Vote Descriptions

Amend Lobbying Laws: HB 6, Strengthens NC lobbying laws by closing the “good will loophole,” Motion 7, to adopt conference report

HB 6 requires complete reporting of expenditures of lobbyists. Gifts in excess of \$25 in value (meals, loans, most transportation expenses, and tickets, fees, or expenses for any sporting, recreational, or entertainment events) must be reported. **Status: Passed into law.**

Clarify Regulation of Forestry: SB 681, Amend. 1, Would have given cities more ability to protect forestlands

SB 681 prohibits local governments from adopting or enforcing any ordinance or regulation on forest land placed under the “present use valuation” program. This severely restricts local governments’ ability to protect wooded buffers from encroaching development. Amendment 1, offered by Rep. Pricey Harrison, would have made a bad bill slightly better by extending from 3 to 5 years the time a local government could withhold a building permit after timber was harvested if that harvest caused the removal of trees that would have been protected under local ordinance. **Status: Amendment failed, bill passed into law.**

Drinking Water Reservoir Protection

Act: SB 981, Begins a Process to Protect Drinking Water in the State’s Reservoirs, 2nd reading

SB 981 directs the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) to study water quality in the state’s drinking water reservoirs. Additionally, it directs the EMC to develop and implement nutrient management strategies for reservoirs for which water quality monitoring is planned. This act targets Jordan and Falls Lakes initially, both of which serve as drinking water supplies for much of the Triangle region. **Status: Passed into law.**

Global Warming/Climate Change:

SB 1134, Established a commission to study the impacts of Global Warming, 2nd reading

SB 1134, one of the last bills to pass the legislature this year created a commission to study global warming. The commission, which will include representatives of environmental organizations, utilities, scientists, and legislators, will study issues such as the emerging carbon economy and may develop pollution reduction goals for the state. **Status: Passed into law.**

Improve Environmental Enforcement:

HB 1283, Would have increased the penalties polluters pay when they violate NC law, 2nd reading

In our most significant defeat of the session, Rep. Culpepper’s environmental enforcement bill was defeated by a disappointingly wide margin of 46-68. This bill would have increased the

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Senate Vote Descriptions

Amend Lobbying Laws: HB 6, Strengthens NC lobbying laws by closing the “good will loophole,” Motion 7, Adopt conference report

HB 6 requires complete reporting of expenditures of lobbyists. Gifts in excess of \$25 in value (meals, loans, most transportation expenses, and tickets, fees, or expenses for any sporting, recreational, or entertainment events) must be reported. **Status: Passed into law.**

Clarify Forestry Regulations: SB 681, Amend. 1, Gives cities less ability to protect forests

SB 681 prohibits local governments from adopting or enforcing any ordinance, rule or regulation on forest land placed under the “present use valuation” program. This severely restricts local government’s ability to ensure wooded buffers from encroaching development. Amend. 1, offered by Sen. Hoyle, makes a bad bill worse by reducing from 5 to 2 years the time a local government can withhold a building permit after timber is harvested if that harvest causes the removal of trees that would have been protected under local ordinance. **Status: Passed into law.**

Drinking Water Reservoir Protection

Act: SB 981, Begins a Process to Protect Drinking Water in the State’s Reservoirs, 2nd reading

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Disposal in Landfills/Additional Bans:

HB 1465, Removed wood pallets as an item that would be banned from landfills in NC, Amendment 2

When given an opportunity to ban wood pallets from NC’s landfills, the Senate voted instead for an amendment that allows continued disposal of these readily recyclable items. However, the legislature did pass the rest of the bill which adds other categories to the list of items that are banned from disposal in NC’s landfills. The newly banned items are plastic bottles, mo-

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HOUSE	Party	District	County	Lobby Laws	Forestry Regs.	Drinking Water	Global Warming	Enforcement	Landfill Ban	Mercury Switch	Children's Health	Farmalnd Funds	Prohibit MTBE	2005 Long Session	2003-2004 Score	2002-2001 Score
Pro- Conservation Vote:				YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	%	%	%
Adams	D	58	Guilford	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	75	NA
Alexander	D	106	Meck.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	100	92
Allen, B	D	33	Wake	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	90	64	NA
Allen, L	D	49	Franklin	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	90	100	NA
Allred	R	64	Alamance	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	70	33	29
Almond	R	67	Stanley	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	60	NA	NA
Barnhart	R	82	Cabarrus	+	-	+	-	-	E	+	+	-	+	56	51	43
Bell	D	21	Sampson	+	-	+	0	+	+	+	+	-	+	70	68	79
Black	D	100	Meck.	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	INC	INC	NA
Blackwood	R	68	Union	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	50	55	NA
Blust	R	62	Guilford	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	60	45	57
Bordsen	D	63	Alamance	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	E	+	+	89	100	NA
Brown	R	73	Forsyth	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	80	NA	NA
Brubaker	R	78	Randolph	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	70	65	32
Capps	R	41	Wake	E	E	+	-	E	E	-	+	+	+	67	26	29
Carney	D	102	Meck.	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	90	100	NA
Church	D	86	Burke	+	-	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	80	41	72
Clary	R	110	Cleveland	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	70	71	43
Cleveland	R	14	Onslow	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	70	NA	NA
Coates	D	77	Rowan	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	90	58	71
Cole	D	65	Rockingham	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	80	48	63
Coleman	D	39	Wake	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	90	NA	NA
Crawford	D	32	Granville	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	80	71	72
Culp	R	70	Randolph	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	80	56	50
Culpepper	D	2	Chowan	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	90	68	86
Cunningham	D	107	Meck.	0	-	+	+	+	E	+	+	+	+	78	INC	85
Current	R	109	Gaston	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	70	NA	NA
Daughtridge	R	25	Nash	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	60	76	NA
Daughtry	R	26	Johnston	+	-	+	-	-	0	+	+	-	+	50	44	58
Dickson	D	44	Cumberland	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	90	100	NA
Dockham	R	80	Davidson	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	70	49	72
Dollar	R	36	Wake	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	70	NA	NA
Earle	D	101	Meck.	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	80	68	100
Eddins	R	40	Wake	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	70	44	72
England	D	112	Rutherford	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	90	88	NA
Faison	D	50	Orange	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	70	NA	NA
Farmer-Butterfield	D	24	Wilson	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	75	NA
Fisher	D	114	Buncombe	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	90	NA	NA
Folwell	R	74	Forsyth	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	70	NA	NA
Frye	R	84	Mitchell	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	50	61	NA
Gibson	D	69	Anson	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	90	71	72
Gillespie	R	85	McDowell	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	50	43	43
Glazier	D	45	Cumberland	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	100	NA
Goforth	D	115	Buncombe	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	80	78	NA
Goodwin	D	66	Richmond	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	90	74	92

+ : pro-conservation vote --: anti-conservation vote E: excused absence (not counted in final %)

0: did not vote (counted as a ?? in final %) INC: Members did not cast votes for a majority of votes N/A: No previous voting record

HOUSE	Party	District	County	Lobby Laws	Forestry Regs.	Drinking Water	Global Warming	Enforcement	Landfill Ban	Mercury Switch	Children's Health	Farmland Funds	Prohibit MTBE	2005 Long Session	2003-2004 Score	2002-2001 Score
Pro- Conservation Vote:				YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	%	%	%
Grady	R	15	Onslow	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	80	55	43
Gulley	R	103	Meck.	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	60	49	43
Hackney	D	54	Orange	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	100	93
Haire	D	119	Jackson	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	94	93
Harrell	D	90	Surry	+	-	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	80	61	NA
Harrison	D	57	Guilford	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	NA	NA
Hill	D	20	Columbus	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	70	65	72
Hilton	R	96	Catawba	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	60	49	25
Holliman	D	81	Davidson	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	80	61	NA
Hollo	R	88	Alexander	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	70	NA	NA
Holloway	R	91	Stokes	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	70	NA	NA
Holmes	R	92	Yadkin	0	-	0	-	-	+	E	E	-	0	13	INC	50
Howard	R	79	Davie	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	80	45	57
Hunter	D	5	Hertford	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	70	INC	67
Insko	D	56	Orange	+	E	+	+	E	+	+	+	+	+	100	100	100
Jeffus	D	59	Guilford	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	78	93
Johnson, L	R	83	Cabarrus	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	70	61	50
Jones, Earl	D	60	Guilford	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	90	84	NA
Jones, Edward	D	7	Halifax	0	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	70	NA	NA
Justice	R	16	Pender	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	90	68	NA
Justus	R	117	Henderson	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	70	55	36
Kiser	R	97	Lincoln	+	-	+	-	-	+	E	E	-	-	38	43	7
Langdon	R	28	Johnston	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	70	NA	NA
LaRoque	R	10	Lenoir	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	70	65	NA
Lewis	R	53	Harnett	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	E	+	+	78	55	NA
Lucas	D	42	Cumberland	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	90	78	72
Luebke	D	30	Durham	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	100	100
Martin	D	34	Wake	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	NA	NA
McAllister	D	43	Cumberland	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	80	75	71
McComas	R	19	New Hanover	+	-	E	E	+	+	E	+	+	+	86	88	86
McGee	R	75	Forsyth	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	70	71	NA
McLawhorn	D	9	Pitt	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	94	86
McMahan	R	104	Meck.	E	E	+	+	E	+	E	+	-	+	83	75	72
Michaux	D	31	Durham	0	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	80	74	79
Miller	D	29	Durham	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	INC	100
Moore	R	111	Cleveland	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	80	43	NA
Morgan	R	52	Moore	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	80	93	65
Nye	D	22	Bladen	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	70	61	72
Owens	D	1	Pasquotank	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	70	62	72
Parmon	D	72	Forsyth	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	75	NA
Pate	R	11	Wayne	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	60	78	NA
Pierce	D	48	Scotland	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	80	NA	NA
Preston	R	13	Carteret	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	80	33	58
Rapp	D	118	Madison	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	100	NA
Ray	R	95	Iredell	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	70	49	NA
Rayfield	R	108	Gaston	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	70	40	29

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HOUSE	Party	District	County	Lobby Laws	Forestry Regs.	Drinking Water	Global Warming	Enforcement	Landfill Ban	Mercury Switch	Children's Health	Farmland Funds	Prohibit MTBE	2005 Long Session	2003-2004 Score	2002-2001 Score
Pro- Conservation Vote:				YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	%	%	%
Rhodes	R	98	Meck.	+	-	+	-	-	+	E	+	+	+	67	29	NA
Ross	D	38	Wake	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	100	NA
Sauls	R	51	Lee	E	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	67	75	NA
Saunders	D	99	Meck.	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	90	68	79
Setzer	R	89	Catawba	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	70	45	29
Sherrill	R	116	Buncombe	+	+	+	+	-	E	+	+	+	-	78	78	69
Stam	R	37	Wake	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	0	+	70	61	NA
Starnes	R	87	Caldwell	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	60	34	36
Steen	R	76	Rowan	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	60	NA	NA
Stiller	R	17	Brunswick	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	80	100	NA
Sutton	D	47	Robeson	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	80	75	92
Tolson	D	23	Edgecombe	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	90	78	79
Tucker	D	4	Duplin	0	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	70	NA	NA
Underhill	D	3	Craven	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	90	NA	NA
Vinson	R	105	Meck.	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	60	NA	NA
Wainwright	D	12	Craven	+	-	+	+	+	+	E	+	E	+	88	76	70
Walend	R	113	Transylvania	+	-	E	E	-	+	+	+	+	+	75	34	65
Walker	R	94	Wilkes	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	60	58	57
Warren	D	8	Pitt	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	90	82	64
Weiss	D	35	Wake	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	100	100
West	R	120	Cherokee	+	-	E	E	-	+	-	+	+	+	63	39	36
Wiley	R	61	Guilford	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	70	NA	NA
Wilkins	D	55	Person	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	80	NA	NA
Williams, A	D	6	Beaufort	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	70	69	NA
Wilson	R	93	Watauga	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	70	68	58
Womble	D	71	Forsyth	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	100	93
Wray	D	27	Northhampton	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	70	NA	NA
Wright	D	18	New Hanover	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	90	61	79
Yongue	D	46	Scotland	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	90	78	93

AVERAGE PARTY SCORES	2005 Long Session	2003-2004 General Assembly Average	2001-2002 General Assembly Average
House			
Republicans	66%	53%	51%
Democrats	86%	78%	81%
Total House	76%	66%	66%
Senate			
Republicans	69%	63%	71%
Democrats	80%	85%	78%
Total Senate	75%	74%	76%

Will Polluters Ever Pay?

The most significant disappointment of the legislative session came when the House failed to pass **“Improve Environmental Enforcement”** (HB 1283, Culpepper), a bill that would have increased the penalties that polluters pay when they violate state laws. Many of these penalties have not increased since 1983, and NC now lags behind our neighboring states when it comes to effective enforcement of existing environmental laws.

In some cases the maximum penalties for pollution law violations are so low that it is cheaper for companies to pay the penalties than fix the problem. Additionally, it often costs the state more money to enforce a penalty than they can recover from that penalty. For example the average penalty assessed by the Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources in 2000-2002 was \$7077. But the actual cost to DENR, if an enforcement action gets appealed and goes through all the steps in the process, could exceed \$27,000—many times the recouped penalty.

We believe this is an egregious situation that the state legislature has an obligation to correct.

SENATE	Party	District	County	Lobby Law	Forestry Regs.	Drinking Water	Global Warming	Landfill Ban	Mercury Switch.	Prohibit MTBE	2005 Long Session	2003-2004 Score.	2001-2002 Score
Pro- Conservation Vote:				YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	%	%	%
Albertson	D	10	Duplin	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	86	92	76
Allran	R	44	Catawba	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	86	79	69
Apodaca	R	48	Henderson	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	71	59	NA
Atwater	D	18	Chatham	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	NA	NA
Basnight	D	1	Dare	+	0	+	+	-	+	+	71	67	83
Berger, D	D	7	Franklin	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	NA	NA
Berger, P	R	26	Rockingham	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	57	59	69
Bingham	R	33	Davidson	+	-	+	+	E	+	+	83	90	69
Blake	R	22	Moore	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	71	67	NA
Boseman	D	9	New Hano-	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	71	NA	NA
Brock	R	34	Davie	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	57	59	NA
Brown	R	6	Onslow	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	71	NA	NA
Clodfelter	D	37	Meck.	+	-	+	+	-	E	+	67	79	76
Cowell	D	16	Wake	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	NA	NA
Dalton	D	46	Rutherford	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	71	79	55
Dannelly	D	38	Meck.	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	71	79	83
Dorsett	D	28	Guilford	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	86	100	NA
East	R	30	Surry	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	57	NA	NA
Forrester	R	41	Gaston	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	71	INC	57
Garrou	D	32	Forsyth	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	71	100	83
Garwood	R	45	Wilkes	E	-	+	+	-	+	+	67	INC	79
Goodall	R	35	Union	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	57	NA	NA
Graham	D	40	Meck.	+	+	E	+	+	+	+	100	NA	NA
Hagan	D	27	Guilford	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	86	88	83
Hartsell	R	36	Cabarrus	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	71	78	93
Holloman	D	4	Hertford	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	86	INC	NA
Horton	R	31	Forsyth	E	-	+	+	-	+	+	67	79	76
Hoyle	D	43	Gaston	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	71	78	55
Hunt	R	15	Wake	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	86	NA	NA
Jacumin	R	44	Burke	+	-	+	-	E	E	+	60	NA	NA
Jenkins	D	3	Edgecombe	+	E	+	+	-	+	+	83	INC	NA
Kerr	D	5	Wayne	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	71	79	49
Kinnaird	D	23	Orange	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	100	100
Lucas	D	20	Durham	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	71	100	90
Malone	D	14	Wake	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	86	84	NA
Nesbitt	D	49	Buncombe	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	86	77	79
Pittenger	R	40	Meck.	E	E	+	+	-	+	+	80	50	NA
Presnell	R	47	Yancey	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	71	NA	NA
Purcell	D	25	Scotland	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	71	88	83
Rand	D	19	Cumberland	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	71	88	76
Shaw	D	21	Cumberland	E	-	0	+	+	E	+	60	71	90
Smith	R	12	Johnston	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	71	67	NA
Snow	D	50	Cherokee	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	NA	NA
Soles	D	8	Columbus	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	71	75	76
Stevens	R	17	Wake	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	71	67	NA
Swindell	D	11	Nash	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	71	79	86
Thomas	D	2	Craven	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	71	79	76
Tillman	R	29	Randolph	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	71	58	NA
Webster	R	24	Alamance	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	57	42	37
Weinstein	D	13	Robeson	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	71	INC	82

House Vote *cont.*

penalties that polluters pay when they violate NC's pollution laws. (See "Will Polluters Pay?" Box) **Status: Failed in House.**

Disposal in Landfills/Additional Bans: HB 1465, Adds new categories of materials that are banned from NC landfills, 2nd reading

HB 1465 added three new categories of waste that are prohibited from disposal in NC's landfills: plastic bottles, vehicle oil filters, and oyster shells. **Status: Passed into law.**

Mercury Switch Removal Act: HB 1136, Requires the removal of mercury switches from end of life vehicles, 2nd reading

HB 1136 reduces the quantity of mercury that is released into the environment by requiring the removal of mercury switches from end-of-life vehicles. Most cars in NC are melted down to harvest their steel, releasing mercury into the atmosphere unless mercury switches are removed before hand. **Status: Passed into law.**

Schoolchildren's Health Act: HB 1502, Addresses five public health concerns in North Carolina's public schools, 2nd reading

HB 1502 addresses five public health concerns for children on NC's public school campuses: pesticide use, arsenic treated wood, mercury, school bus diesel exhaust and mold and mildew. This bill received broad, bi-partisan support in the House where it passed unanimously. Unfortunately, "Schoolchildren" got bogged down on the Senate side and failed to emerge from committee before the end of session. But the bill is not dead, and we are optimistic about the chances of success in next year's short session. (See "Poisoned School" Box) **Status: Passed House, awaiting Senate action.**

Farmland Preservation Trust Fund: SB 622, House Amendment 7

Offered by Guilford County Rep. Pricey Harrison, this amendment to the budget provided \$40,000 funding to the Farmland Preservation Trust Fund. The Farmland Preservation Trust Fund, which has not been funded in recent budgets, has missed opportunities to receive federal matching funds. **Status: Funds added to budget, budget passed.**

Phase Out the Use of MTBE's in Fuels: HB 1336, Requires the phase out of MTBE in gasoline sold in NC, 2nd reading

NC became the first southern state to order the phase out of MTBE (methyl tertiary butyl ether) as an additive for gasoline, diesel, home heating oil, airplane fuel, and all other fuels. The phase out is to be achieved by January 1, 2008. **Status: Passed into law.**

Senate Vote *cont.*

tor vehicle oil filters, and oyster shells. **Status: Passed into law.**

Mercury Switch Removal Act: HB 1136, Requires the removal of mercury switches from end-of-life vehicles, 2nd reading

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Environmental Champions: Making a world of difference

One of the highlights this session was the emergence of new environmental leadership in the North Carolina General Assembly. Most notable were freshmen Senator Janet Cowell (D-Wake) and Representative Pricey Harrison (D-Guilford) who shined this year as part of a new environmental "farm team" of freshmen and sophomore legislators who are raising environmental matters to new levels of attention in the General Assembly.

Rep. Pricey Harrison This Greensboro freshman is a long time environmental activist. A strong advocate on all environmental issues that came before the legislature, Rep. Harrison was particularly effective on budget matters, working behind the scenes to ensure that this year's budget was as sensitive to the environment as possible. She successfully fought off a number of proposed cuts that could have devastated key divisions at the Department of Environment & Natural Resources.

Sen. Janet Cowell Another leading freshman, Raleigh's Janet Cowell emerged as a steady champion willing to go the extra mile to protect air and water. Sen. Cowell work to defeat bad legislation, improve mediocre bills, and get good legislation passed. She was the primary Senate sponsor of the "Drinking Water Reservoir Protection Act" and put in many extra hours into ensuring its passage. In her first session, Cowell made a reputation as the kind of legislator others listen to.

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(919) 839-0006
ccnc@conservationcouncilinc.org
www.conservationcouncilinc.org
www.ccnccpac.org

Conservation Council
Of North Carolina
PO Box 12671
Raleigh, NC 27605

