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The Environmental Voice

Member organizations:

Breathe Clean Air Action Team Cumberland Harpeth Chapter of the Audubon Society Harpeth Conservancy League of Women Voters of Tennessee Scenic Tennessee Southern Alliance for Clean Energy Southern Environmental Law Center - Nashville Tennessee Association for Justice Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning Tennessee Environmental Council Tennesse Forests Council Tennessee Native Plant Society Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation Tennessee Preservation Trust Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association



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To receive updates on state environmental legislation, e-mail: info@tnconservationvoters.org

1. Water Quality - SB295/HB362 would allow the General Assembly to meddle with post-construction stormwater regulations. Proper post-construction stormwater regulations ensure that pollutants don't rush into our water supply and also limit the risk of property damage after rain. Negative points for sponsorship, positive and negative points for floor vote.

Index of Actions

- 2. Open Records SB464/HB58 broadens access to environmental and other public records by requiring the acceptance of email requests for access to public information. Environmental advocates rely on access to information to hold bad actors accountable; this measure will prevent local governments from making our community jump through hoops just to hold our public officials accountable. Enacted as Public Chapter 233. Positive points for sponsorship.
- Recreation SB466/HB74 establishes the Ocoee River Recreation and Economic Development Fund Act to ensure that whitewater rafting and other recreational activities can continue. Due to TVA policies, the Ocoee River access would have been shut down this year; this bill preserves our ability to enjoy this part of Tennessee's great outdoors. Enacted as Public Chapter 434. Positive points for sponsorship.
- 4. Public Participation Lawsuits SB548/HB406 would improve protections for environmental litigators and others by making it more difficult for bad actors to bury them with frivolous lawsuits as well as making it more difficult for defendants to dismiss certain kinds of public participation lawsuits. Positive points for sponsorship.
- 5. Children's Health SB660/HB1269 would require schools to annually inspect for indoor air quality. Positive points for sponsorship.
- Coal Mining SB686/HB571 would remove federal supervision and enforcement of coal mining protections. Negative points for sponsorship, positive and negative points for committee votes.
- PACE SB794/HB464 would establish the Property Assessed Clean Energy Act (PACE) allowing local governments to assist business & residential property owners with implementation of energy efficiency improvements, such as renewable energy installations, and water conservation methods. Positive points for sponsorship.
- Factory Farms SB899/HB1017 limits Tennessee's ability to regulate concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), more commonly known as factory farms. Enacted as Public Chapter 293 with a delay so stakeholders would hopefully work out a compromise, but we are not overly optimistic. Negative points for sponsorship, positive and negative points for committee votes. Transportation Improvement Funding - SB1221/HB534 provides a mechanism
- for approval of publicly funded transit projects; provides dedicated funding for road improvements allowing other revenues to be used for other purposes, such as funding our environmental obligations. Enacted as Public Chapter 181. Positive points for sponsorship, positive and negative points for floor vote. 10. Severance Tax - SB1351/HB1187 would raise oil and gas severance taxes,
- reallocating them to the county of the wellhead site. Counties are often stuck needing to clean up the environmental impacts of fossil fuel extraction without having the funds to do so. Positive points for sponsorship.
- 11. Air Pollution -SB1371/HB1405 restricts rights of cities and counties to include land use or zoning requirements in air pollution control regulations. Enacted as Public Chapter 284. Negative points for sponsorship, positive and negative votes for floor vote. Forever Green Tennessee - Senate Budget Amendment 81/House Budget Amendment 152 would have provided funding to help protect headwaters, historic locations, and working farms from encroaching development and overpopulation. Despite the failure of this budget amendment, it is worth noting that this is the first year we have not faced an attack on conservation funding in several years. Positive points for sponsorship.

Worth Noting:

The legislature has dealt with several important bills that have been tricky to categorize into a "stump" or a "tree". Nevertheless, they are worth knowing about. These bills are detailed below:

Energy Policy Council - SB1250/HB438 creates an energy policy council made up of various representatives, including one from "environmental groups" nominated by the Lieutenant Governor. The 14-member council is responsible for creating an annual energy report and developing a state energy policy that includes legislative recommendations. TCV is proud to have been a main point of contact between the environmental community

and the Lieutenant Governor. Enacted as Public Chapter 438. Recreational Paddling - SB1335/HB785 would create a task force to study "issues associated with the use of non-motorized vessels". This bill had the potential to result in a fee for recreational paddlers. There have been problems on certain rivers between property-owners and some users of those rivers which has caught the attention of the sponsors. This bill didn't go anywhere this session, but unless those issues are resolved, we can expect to see more bills like this.

Wind Energy Facility Siting - SB1336/HB1021 - creates a committee to "evaluate and make recommendations" about the future of wind energy in the state. It began as a bill to stifle the development of wind energy, but was significantly amended. It is impossible to know what the committee will recommend, but given this act's history, we are watching it closely. Enacted as Public Chapter 368.

*For more information on individual bills go to www.capitol.tn.gov

Reading the Scorecard:

Most scorecards are based on floor votes (entire House or Senate consideration) on selected bills. In the Tennessee General Assembly however, most of the important legislative work and votes occur within the committee system. In order to have a more complete picture, this scorecard evaluates legislators' work on important and appropriate environmental bills by giving positive or negative credit for committee votes and

The opportunities for earning positive or negative points vary because not all legislators were on committees that considered environmental bills. While the scorecard gives a good general sense of the extent to which legislators supported the environment, legislators' scores should not be directly compared unless they had an opportunity to vote on the same bills. An additional consideration this year was the lack of substantive votes that were taken on environmental legislation.

- · Positive credit for floor votes, committee votes and / or sponsorships results in a "1" Negative credit for floor votes, committee votes and / or sponsorship results in a "-1"

they received a stump To review the previous scorecards, go to www.tnconservationvoters.org

Know the Score!



Tennessee Conservation Voters (TCV) is the only statewide, non-partisan, non-profit L organization dedicated solely to protecting Tennessee's environment and preserving our natural resources through effective legislative and administrative advocacy. TCV turns conservation values into Tennessee priorities by advocating strong environmental policies and holding elected officials accountable.

We take our mission to encourage effective and informed environmental advocates seriously. If you have any questions about Tennessee's public policy or want to join our free Legislative Update email list, drop a line to info@tnconservationvoters.org.

One way we hold our elected officials accountable is through this annual scorecard. The scorecard provides factual, non-partisan information about legislators' actions on a range of conservation and environmental issues. To compile this scorecard, TCV worked with our members and allies to select the most important conservation actions of the year. Be sure to read the key to the scorecard to fully understand it.

Thanks to our friends in the General Assembly!

Not everyone had equal opportunity to make positive votes, but the following legislators had the best voting and sponsorship records. We list them below by score and alphabetically where there is a tie. Senators: Steve Dickerson, Thelma Harper, Lee Harris, and Sara Kyle. Representatives: John Ray Clemmons, Brenda Gilmore, Antonio Parkinson, Mike Stewart,

and Johnnie Turner.

Holding Us Back

It was not an easy year, though some of the worst bills were stopped, delayed, or significantly modified. Unfortunately, we have seen an increased level of organization and an increased willingness to reach out to legislators from those who seek to maximize personal profits at the cost of everyone's health and well-being. If our community doesn't match this engagement, we can expect outcomes to continue to deteriorate. For example, TCV saw homebuilders and factory farm owners from across the state connect with representatives and senators. As the dust settles, we can all see how effective

these connections can be. The Homebuilders Association sponsored legislation to further restrict common sense rules on post-construction stormwater runoff which has already passed the House. And the factory-farm friendly bill that hamstrings the state's ability to regulate concentrated animal feeding operations has passed with an effective date in March.

One thing is certain, our opponents will continue to organize and build capacity between now and next session. We already know that we will be facing new attacks on our state's environment and public health, not to mention the constant threats from the coal lobby and attacks on clean water.

Moving Us Forward

It is within our power to meet this challenge.

- . Commit to asking 3 people to join our email list. The environment is too important not to organize. People can sign-up via the
- website www.tnconservationvoters.org. Send a polite and professional email to your legislators today letting them know you care about the environment. No matter how
- good or how bad your legislators may be for the environment, they need to know that their constituents care about conservation. Continue working and planning together to make sure we stand unified in the face of unprecedented threats to our environment.

What it takes to win!

2017 Score

Here are 3 key steps that have consistently led to significant successes over the past years. It sounds simple, but it really is all about these

Develop good relationships with decision-makers. These relationships are the foundation for successful advocacy. This step is all about establishing the relationship before you need the relationship. For instance, send your Representative and Senator a short, polite email thanking them for their public service and asking them to keep the environment in mind in the coming session. Treat legislators with respect even if you do not agree on specific issues and votes. Contact your legislator with concise, persuasive and accurate talking points. Tennessee legislators don't have a lot of staff

to explain potential impacts of bills. They really do rely on citizens and advocacy groups to inform their decision-making. Secondly, the other side is hard at work "educating" the General Assembly, and if we don't speak up, special interests will continue to dominate the conversation. If you don't know who your legislators are, visit www.capitol.tn.gov/legislators and enter your address.

Hold legislators accountable for the good and the bad. Vote in every election. Talk about office-holders with your friends. Write letters to the editor. The bottom line is that legislators pay attention to their constituents, so we need to let them know that we are paying attention to them.

*To find the Legislators that represent your district, please visit www.capitol.gov

L	Senate	2017 (+) Postive Actions®	2017 (-) Negative Actions®	Score	2017 Rating
п	Lt. Gov. McNally, R-5 Bailey, R-15	(10), 9	11	2	•
п	Beavers, R-17 Bell, R-9	(2), (3), 9	(8), 8, 11	-1 0	3
п	Bowling, R-16	9	11, 9 (1), 11	-2 -1	#
в	Briggs, R-7 Crowe, R-3	9	11	0	
п	Dickerson, R-20 Gardenhire, R-10	(7), 8, 9, 11	11	4	• •
п	Green, R-22		8, 11 8, 9, 11	-2 -3	*
п	Gresham, R-26 Haile, R-18	9	11	0	無月
п	Harper, D-19 Harris, D-29	(9), 9, 11 8, 9, 11		3	21
п	Hensley, R-28 Jackson, R-27	9	9, 11 11	-2 0	A
п	Johnson, R-23	9	(11), 11	-1	#
п	Kelsey, R-31 Ketron, R-13	9 (4), (12), 9	11 11	2	•
п	Kyle, D-30 Lundberg, R-4	(9), 9, 11 9	11	3	• •
п	Massey, R-6	8, 9	11	-3	4
п	Niceley, R-8 Norris, R-32	(9), 9	8, 9, 11 11	1	****
п	Overbey, R-2 Roberts, R-25	9 11	11 9	0	
в	Southerland, R-1 Stevens, R-24	9	8 11	-1 0	#
п	Tate, D-33	9		1	4
п	Tracy, R-14 Watson, R-11	(5), (9), 9	11 11	0	•
п	Yager, R-12 Yarbro, D-21	(9), 9 9, 11	(6), 8, 11	-1 2	1
ı	House of Representatives	,,,,,			T
в	Speaker Harwell, R-56 Akbari, D-91	9,11	1	1	4
	Alexander, R-39	9	1	0	
	Beck, D-51 H. Brooks, R-19	9,11 9	1,11	1 -1	4
	K. Brooks, R-24 Butt, R-64	(3), (9), 9	1, 11 1, 9, 11	1 -3	無力
	Byrd, R-71 Calfee, R-32	9	(8), 1, 11 (1), 1, 11	-2 -2	*
	Camper, D-87	9, 11		2	*
	Carr, R-12 Carter, R-29	9 (4), 9	1, 11 1, 11	-1 0	2
	Casada, R-63 Clemmons, D-55	(9), 9 1, 9, 11	11	3	44
	Coley, R-97 Cooper, D-86	9 9, 11	1,11	-1 1	7
п	Crawford, R-1		1, 9, 11	-3	無非
п	Curcio, R-69 Daniel, R-18	9 (2), (3), 9	1, 11 1, 11	-1 1	
п	Deberry, D-90 Doss, R-70	(9), 9	(1), (8), 1, 11	1 -2	4
в	Dunn, R-16 Eldridge, R-73	(7), (9), 9	1 (8), 1, 11	2 -2	Ţ
п	Faison, R-11	9	(1), 1, 11	-2	*
п	Farmer, R-17 Favors, D-28	9	1, 11 1	-1 0	#
п	Fitzhugh, D-82 Forgety, R-23	9, 11 9	1,11	-1	1
п	Gant, R-94 Gilmore, D-54	1, 9, 11	(8), (11), 1, 9, 11	-5 3	無無力
в	Goins, R-10	9	1, 9, 11	-3 -1	***
п	Gravitt, R-30 Halford, R-79	9	1, 11 (1), 1, 8, 11	-3	# A
п	Hardaway, D-93 Hawk, R-5	(4), 1, 11	9 (1), (8), 1, 8, 9, 11	-6	
п	Hazlewood, R-27 Hicks, R-9	(9), 9	1, 11 1, 11	0	4
в	M. Hill, R-7 T. Hill, R-3	9	1, 11	-1 -1	4
п	Holsclaw, R-4	9	11	0	7
п	Holt, R-76 Howell, R-22	(3), 9	(1), 1, 8, 9, 11 11	-5 1	乘乘 身
п	Hulsey, R-2 Jernigan, D-60	9 (7), 9, 11	1, 8, 11	-2 2	***
п	Johnson, R-68 Jones, D-59	9 9, 11	1, 11 1	-1 1	1
п	Kane, R-89	9	1, 9, 11 1, (11), 11	-3 -2	A. J.
п	Keisling, R-38 Kumar, R-66	,	1, 11	-2	♣
в	Lamberth, R-44 Littleton, R-78		(8), 1, 9, 11 1, 11	-4 -2	条条
	Lollar, R-99 Love, D-58	9 9, 11	(1), 1, 8, 11	-3 1	
	Lynn, R-57	9	1, 11	-1	1
	Marsh, R-62 Matheny, R-47	(9), 9	1, 8, 11 8, 9, 11	-1 -3	無力
	Matlock, R-21 McCormick, R-26	(9), (12), 9	1, 9, 11 1, 11	-3 1	#4
	McDaniel, R-72 Miller, D-88	(9), (12), 9 9, 11	1, 8, 11	0 2	
	Mitchell, D-50	8, 9, 11	(1), 1	1	
	Moody, R-81 Parkinson, D-98	1, 9, 11	1, 9, 11	-3 3	
	Pitts, D-67 Pody, R-46	9, 11	1, 9, 11	-3	一种 非
	Powell, D-53 Powers, R-36	9, 11 9	1 (1), (6), 1, 11	1 -3	# 4
	Ragan, R-33	(10), 9	1, 11	0	3
	Ramsey, R-20 Reedy, R-74	9	(1), (11), 1, 8, 11	-4	**
	Rogers, R-45 Rudd, R-34	(2)	1, 9, 11 1, 9, 11	-2 -3	無無 無 無身
	Sanderson, R-78 Sargent, R-61	9 (9), (12), 9	1, 11 1, 11	-1 1	4
	C. Sexton, R-25 J. Sexton, R-35		1, 11 1, 11	-2 -2	*
	Shaw, D-80	8, 9, 11	(1), (8), (11), 1, 9 11	2	
J	Sherrell, R-43 Smith, R-13		1, 11	-2	### #
	Sparks, R-49 Staples, D-15	(7), 9, 11	1, 11 (1), 1	-2 1	
e	Stewart D-52 Swann, R-8	1, 9, 11 (9), 9	1, 11	3	44
e e	Terry, R-48 Thompson, D-96	(5), 9, 11	11	-1 2	4
n d	Tillis, R-92	9	(1), 1, 8, 11	-3 2	**
u	Towns, D-84 Travis, R-31	1,9	1, 11	-1	3
s	Turner, D-85 Van Huss, R-6	1, 9, 11	1, 9, 11	-3	4
h	Vaughan, R-95 Weaver, R-40	N/A	N/A 1, 9, 11	N/A -3	無月
n s	D. White, R-38	(9), 9	1, 9, 11 (8), 1, 11	-3 -1	果身
	M. White, R-83 Whitson, R-65	(9), 9	1	1	
	Williams, R-42 Windle, D-40	8, 11	1, 11	-2 1	*
	Wirgau, R-75 Zachary, R-14	9	11 (1), (11), 1, 9, 11	-5	無無非