



**CONNECTICUT LEAGUE OF
CONSERVATION VOTERS**



2005

Environmental Scorecard

**Electing Pro-Environment Lawmakers
Holding Legislators Accountable
Engaging the Public in State Policy**

Session in Review



MORE GOOD NEWS FROM THE CAPITOL

Building on last year's victories for the environment, when 13 major environmental bills became law, this year the legislature voted in support of a significant number of new pro-environment bills. In addition to all the hard work of the environmental leaders and many pro-environment lawmakers, the new leadership in the House, the Senate and the Administration played a major role in achieving these successes.

Major Victories

- **SB 410 Farm Land Preservation, Land Protection, Affordable Housing and Historic Preservation**
- **SB 916 Pesticides at Schools and Daycare Facilities**
- **SB 920 Establish CT Clean Diesel Program**
- **HB 1294 Minimum Stream Flow Regulations**
- **HB 6570 Plans of Conservation and Development**
- **HB 6908 Clean Car Incentives**
- **HB 7501 Energy Independence**

Unfinished Business

- **SB 590 Invasive Plant Species**
(to reduce the spread of non-native invasive plants)
- **SB 785 Ban of Polybrominated Diphenyl Ether**
(toxic flame retardant chemicals)
- **SB 871 Expanding the Bottle Bill**
(include water bottles)
- **SB 876 Mercury Warnings**
(for fish consumption)
- **SB 923 High Performance Energy Efficiency Green Building Standards**
(standards for state-funded projects)
- **HB 5599 All-Terrain Vehicles**
(universal registration)*
- **HB 6703 Planning for Community Preservation**
(Geographic Information Systems)
- **HB 6393 Community Preservation and Investment**
(To generate additional open space funds)
- **HB 6942 Creating a Clean Water Investment Program**
(a fund for the acquisition of watershed lands)
- **Light pollution Reduction***
(to reduce nighttime light glare and save energy)
- **Bio-Diesel Promotion***
(for cleaner air and conservation of fossil fuel)
- **Natural Gas Conservation Fund***
(to provide incentives for natural gas conservation)
- **Sulfur Content of Home Heating Oil***
(for cleaner air and conservation of fossil fuel)

* Issues denoted with asterisk were not scored, and not all had individual bill numbers, but work continues for their passage.

HOW BILLS ARE SELECTED

Legislation that is included in this Scorecard represents a diverse set of environmental concerns. Environmental groups from around the state inform us about their priority bills and we consult with the advocates throughout the session to monitor votes and track the progress of each.

HOW BILLS ARE SCORED

This year, our scoring method has been refined. We have compiled votes (committee, House, and Senate) on thirteen key bills and have averaged those votes to assign a score to each legislator for each issue. For example, if a legislator had two chances to vote for a pro-environment bill (in a committee and on the Floor) but only voted yea once, the score for that bill would be 50%. The 2005 Final Score, in the last column, is the average of the legislator's scores on all of the bills. A zero means a lack of any pro-environment votes; a blank means the legislator did not cast any votes on that bill; a 100 means that they voted correctly at every opportunity. Only votes that impact the environment are included.

Senate Votes

Senator	Party	District	410 Farmland	590 Invasive Species	871 Bottle Bill	876 Mercury Warnings	916 Pesticides	920 Clean Diesel	923 Green Buildings	1294 Stream Flow Regs.	6393 Comm Pres. \$ Invest.	6570 Plans of C & D	6703 Comm. Planning/GIS	6879 Mercury Reduction	6906 Energy	6908 Clean Cars II	2005 Final Score
Total # of Votes			6	3	3	2	4	6	6	8	2	6	2	1	8	5	
Cappiello	R	24	100	50	0	0	100	100	100	100		50			50	100	68%
Ciotto	D	9	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		100			100	67	97%
Colapietro	D	31	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		100			100	67	97%
Coleman	D	2	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100			100	50	96%
Cook	R	18	33	100	67	50	100	100	100	100	0	100		0	100	100	73%
Crisco	D	17	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		100			50	67	92%
Daily	D	33	100	100	100		100	100	100	100		100			100	67	97%
DeFronzo	D	6	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		100	100		100	67	97%
DeLuca	R	32	100	100	0	0	100	100	100	100		100			100	67	79%
Duff	D	25	50	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		100			100	50	91%
Fasano	R	34	100	100	50	100	100	100	100	75	0	100	100		33	100	81%
Finch	D	22	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		100			100	67	97%
Fonfara	D	1	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		100			100	67	97%
Freedman	R	26		100	50	100	100	100	100	100		100	0			100	84%
Gaffey	D	13	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		100			100	67	97%
Guglielmo	R	35	100			100	100		100	50		100			50	100	88%
Gunther	R	21	100	100	50	50	100	100	100	100		100			100	100	91%
Handley	D	4	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		100			100	50	95%
Harp	D	10	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		100			100	50	95%
Harris	D	5	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	0		100	67	91%
Hartley	D	15	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		100				67	96%
Herlihy	R	8	100	100	0	0	0	67	100	100		100			100	100	70%
Kissel	R	7	100	100	100	0	100	100	100	100		100			100	100	90%
LeBeau	D	3	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		100			100	67	97%
Looney	D	11	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		100			100	67	97%
McDonald	D	27	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		100			100	67	97%
McKinney	R	28	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	50	100		0	100	100	88%
Meyer	D	12	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	50	100	100	0		67	86%
Murphy	D	16	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		0	100	67	90%
Newton	D	23	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		100			75		98%
Nickerson	R	36	100	100	100	0	100	100	100	100		50			100	100	86%
Prague	D	19	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		100			100	50	95%
Roraback	R	30	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		100			50	100	95%
Slossberg	D	14	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		100			50	50	91%
Stillman	D	20	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		0	50	67	86%
Williams	D	29	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		100			67		97%

House of Representatives Votes

Representative	Party	District	410 Farmland	590 Invasive Species	871 Bottle Bill	876 Mercury Warnings	916 Pesticides	920 Clean Diesel	923 Green Buildings	1294 Stream Flow Regs.	6393 Comm Pres. \$ Invest.	6570 Plans of C & D	6703 Comm. Planning/GIS	6879 Mercury Reduction	6906 Energy	6908 Clean Cars II	2005 Final Score
Total # of Votes			11	2	1	1	4	6	5	7	2	6	2	1	8	5	
Abercrombie	D	83	100				100	100	100	100		100			100	100	100%
Adinolfi	R	103	43				100	100	100	100		50			33	0	66%
Alberts	R	103	71	100	100		100	100	100	100	100	0	0		100	33	77%
Aldarondo	D	75	100			100	100	100		100		100			100	50	94%
Altobello	D	82	57				100	100	100	100		100			100	100	95%
Aman	R	14	38				100	100	100	67	0	67	100		75	50	70%
Amann	D	118	100				100	100		100		100			100	100	100%
Aresimowicz	D	30	86				0	100		100		100			100	100	84%
Bacchiochi	R	52	67				100	100		100		0			100	50	74%
Backer	D	121	100	100	100		100	100	100	100	100		0		100	100	92%
Barry	D	12	71	0			100	100		100		100			100	100	84%
Beamon	D	72	71				100	100		100		100			100	75	92%
Belden	R	113	71				0	100		100		100			100	25	71%
Berger	D	73	71					100		100		100			100	33	84%
Bielawa	R	2	33				100	100	100	100		100			100	50	85%
Boucher	R	143	29				0	100	100	100		0			100	50	60%
Boukus	D	22	67				100	100		100		100			100	100	95%
Cafero	R	142	0	100			100	100	0	100		100			100	0	67%
Candelaria	D	95	100	100			100		100						100	100	100%
Cardin	D	53	100				100	100	100	100		100			50	100	94%
Caron	R	44	14				100	100	100	100		100	0		100	67	76%
Carson	R	108	50			100	100	100		100		100			100	100	94%
Caruso	D	126	100				100	100	100	100		100	100		100	100	100%
Chapin	R	67	50	100	0		100	100	100	100	0	100		0	50	33	61%
Christ	D	11	100			100	100	100		100	100	100			100	100	100%
Clemons	D	124	100				100		100	100					100	100	100%
Currey	D	10	100	100			0	100		100		100			100	0	75%
D'Amelio	R	71	14				100	100	100	100		100			100	0	77%
Dargan	D	115	83				100	100		100		100			100	100	98%
Davis	D	50	100	100	100		100	100	100	100	100		0		100	100	92%
DelGobbo	R	70	0				0	100	0	100		0			100	33	42%
Diamantis	D	79	20				100	100		100					100	50	78%
Dillon	D	92	100	0			100	100		100		100			100	100	88%
Donovan	D	84	100				100	100		100		100			100	100	100%
Doyle	D	28	67	0			100	100		100		100			100	100	83%
Drew	D	132	100				100	100	100	100	100	100			100	100	100%
Dyson	D	94	100	0			100	100		50	100		100		50	100	78%
Esposito	D	116	100				0	100		100		100			100	100	86%
Fahrbach	R	61	14			100	100	100	100	100		67			75	0	73%
Farr	R	19	0	100			100	100	100	100		100	0		100	50	75%
Feltman	D	6	71				100	100	100	100		100			100	100	96%
Ferrari	R	62	29				0	100	50	100		0	0		67	33	42%
Fleischmann	D	18	100				100	100	100	100		100	100		100	100	100%
Floren	R	149	14				100	100	100	100		0			100	50	71%
Fontana	D	87	83				100	100	100	100		100			100	100	98%
Fox	D	144	86	0			100	100		100		100	100		100	100	87%
Frey	R	111	14				100								100	50	66%
Fritz	D	90	100	0			100	100	0	100					0	100	63%
Gentile	D	104	100				100	100	100	100	100	100			100	100	100%
Geragosian	D	25	100	100			100	100	100	100		100			100	100	100%

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Total # of Votes			11	2	1	1	4	6	5	7	2	6	2	1	8	5	
Giannaros	D	21	100				100	100	100	100		100	100		100	100	100%
Gibbons	R	150	14				100	100		100		50			100	67	76%
Giegler	R	138	17	0		100	100	100		100					100	0	65%
Giuliano	R	23	29	100	0		100	75	100	100	100		0		100	67	73%
Godfrey	D	110	83	0			100	100		100		100			100	100	85%
Gonzalez	D	3	100	0			100	100	100	100		100			100	100	89%
Googins	R	31	43				100	100	100			100			100	50	85%
Graziani	D	57	100				100	100		100		100			100	50	93%
Green	D	1	75	100			100	100		100		100			100	100	97%
Greene	R	105	0		0		50	100	100	100	0	0		0	100	0	41%
Guerrera	D	29	83				100	100		100		100			100	100	98%
Hamm	D	34	100	100			100	100	100	100		100			100	100	100%
Hamzy	R	78	0	0			100	100		100		0			100	0	50%
Harkins	R	120	0				100	100		100		50			100	0	64%
Heagney	R	16	0				50	67	0	100		100			100		60%
Heinrich	D	101	100			100	100	100	100	100		100			100	100	100%
Hennessy	D	127	100	100	100		100	100	100	100	100	100	0		100	100	92%
Hetherington	R	125	0				100	100				50			100	50	67%
Hewett	D	39	100				100	100	100	100		100			100	100	100%
Hovey	R	112	29	0			0	67		100		0			100	50	43%
Janowski	D	56	100				100	100		100		100			100	100	100%
Jarmoc	D	59	100		100		100	100		100	100		100	0	100	100	90%
Johnston	D	51	100				0	100		100		100			100	50	79%
Jutila	D	37	100	100	0		100	100	100	100	100		100		100	100	92%
Kalinowski	R	100	29	100	100		100	100	100	100	50	50		0	100	67	75%
Keeley	D	125	100				100	100		100		100			100	100	100%
Kirkley-Bey	D	5	86				100	100		100		100			100	100	98%
Klarides	R	114	33	100		100	100	67	100	100		100			100	50	85%
Labriola	R	131	0	100			100	100	100	100					100	50	81%
Lawlor	D	99	100	100			100	100	100	100		100	100		100	100	100%
Leone	D	148	86				100	100		100		100			100	100	98%
Lewis	D	8	100				100	100	100	67	0	100	100		100	100	87%
Malone	D	47	100				100	100	100	100					100	100	100%
Mann	D	140	100				100	100		100		100			100	100	100%
Mantilla	D	4	100				100	100	100	100		100			100	100	100%
Martinez	D	128	100				100	100	100	100		100			100	100	100%
Mazurek	D	80	33				100	100	100	100		100			100	50	85%
McCluskey	D	20	100				100	100	100	100		100	100		100	100	100%
McCrary	D	7	80				100	100		100		100			100	100	97%
McMahon	D	15	50	0			100	100		100		100			100	100	81%
Megna	D	97	100		100		100	100	100	100	100		100		100	100	100%
Merrill	D	54	100					100	100	100		100			100	100	100%
Michele	D	77	100				100	100	100	100		100			100	100	100%
Mikutel	D	45	100				100	100	100	100		100			100	50	94%
Miller	R	122	14				100	100	0	50	0	0	100		100	50	51%
Miner	R	66	0					100		33	0	50	100		50	33	46%
Mioli	D	136	100	100	0		100	100	100	100	0	100		0	100	100	75%
Moukawsher	D	40	86	100	0		100	100	100	100	50	100		0	100	100	78%
Mushinsky	D	85	100	100	100		100	100	100	100	100		100		100	100	100%
Nafis	D	27	100				100	100	100	100		100	100		100	100	100%

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Nardello	D	89	100		100	100		100	100					100	100	100%	
Noujaim	R	74	33			100			100		100			100	0	72%	
O'Brien	D	24	100			100	100	100	100		100	100		100	100	100%	
O'Connor	D	35	100			0	100	100	100		100			100	100	88%	
Olson	D	46	100	100		100	100	100	100		100			100	100	100%	
O'Neill	R	69	57	100		0	100	100	100		50			100	50	73%	
Orange	D	48	83			100	100	100	100		100			100	100	98%	
O'Rourke	D	32	100	100	100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100%	
Panaroni	D	102	83			0	100		100		100			50	50	69%	
Pawelkiewicz	D	49	100			100	100		100		100			100	100	100%	
Perone	D	137	86	100	100		100	100	100	100	100		0	100	100	91%	
Piscopo	R	76	25	100	0		50	0	100	100	0	0		0	100	25	42%
Powers	R	151	0	0			100	100		100		0		100	0	50%	
Reinoso	D	130	100				100	100	100	100		100		100	100	100%	
Reynolds	D	42	100				100	100	100	100		100		100	100	100%	
Ritter	D	38	100			100	100	100	100	100		100		67	100	96%	
Rowe	R	123	0					100	100					100	0	60%	
Roy	D	119	100	100	100		100	100	100	100	100		0	100	100	92%	
Ruwet	R	65	29				0	100		100		100		100	33	66%	
Ryan, J.	R	141	0				100	100		67	100	0	100		100	50	69%
Ryan, K.	D	139	100			100	100	100	100	100		100		100	100	100%	
Sawyer	R	55	17				100	100	100	100		33		67	33	64%	
Sayers	D	60	100			100	100	100	0	100		100		100	100	89%	
Scribner	R	107	14				0	100		100		50		100	0	52%	
Serra	D	33	100	0			100	100		100		100		100	100	88%	
Shapiro	D	144	88				100	100	100	100		100		100	100	99%	
Sharkey	D	88	100				100	100		100		100		100	100	100%	
Sherer	R	147	17				100	100		100				100	50	78%	
Spallone	D	36	83	100	100		100	100	100	100	100	100	0	100	100	91%	
Staples	D	96	100	100			100	100		100		100		100	100	100%	
Stone, C.	D	9	83	0			100	100		100		100		100	0	73%	
Stone, J.	R	134	14			100	100	100	100	100		0		100	50	74%	
Stripp	R	135	29				100	100	100	100		0		100	50	72%	
Tallarita	D	58	100				100	100		100		100		100	100	100%	
Tercyak	D	26	100			100	100	100	100	100		100		100	100	100%	
Thompson	D	13	100				100	100		100		100		100	100	100%	
Truglia	D	145	100				100	100	100	100		100		100	100	100%	
Tymniak	R	133	29				100	100	100	100		0	0	100	50	64%	
Urban	R	43	43	100	100		100	100	100	75	100	100	100	100	100	94%	
Villano	D	91	100				100	100		100		100		100	100	100%	
Walker	D	93	100	100			100	100	100	100		100		100	100	100%	
Wallace	D	109	100				100	100	100	0	100	100		100	100	90%	
Ward	R	86	0				0	100		100		50		67	0	45%	
Wasserman	R	106	29			100	100	100		100		50		100	50	79%	
Widlitz	D	98	100			100	100	100		100		100		100	100	100%	
Wilber	D	63	100	100	100		100	100	100	75	100	100	0	100	67	88%	
Williams	R	68	0				100	67	50	100		0		100	0	52%	
Willis	D	64	100	100	100		100	100	100	100	100		100	100	100	100%	
Winkler	R	41	29	100		100	100	100		100		100		100	67	88%	
Wittkos	R	17	33				100	100		100		100		100	50	83%	
Zalaski	D	81	86				100	100		100		100		100	100	98%	

Bill Descriptions

SB 410 Farm Land Preservation, Land Protection, Affordable Housing and Historic Preservation

SB 410 provides approximately \$27 million in new funding for open space, historic preservation, affordable housing and farmland preservation. Towns will collect a \$30 document fee for each new land record filed and keep \$3 of the fee to administer the program. Many lawmakers on both sides of the aisle fought for this legislation. Special recognition goes to Sen. Don Williams, who ensured this would be an environmental priority this session, and to Rep. Dick Beldon and Rep. Lew Wallace for leading this effort in the House.

**Status: Passed,
Public Act #05-228**

SB 590 Invasive Plant Species

Non-native invasive plant species threaten the biological diversity of Connecticut's natural landscape. SB 590, championed by Sen. Andrew Roraback, would have improved upon a law last year that prohibits the sale and distribution of certain invasive plants. Banned species could only be moved for the purposes of eradication and the state would include invasive plants in their ongoing inspection programs (current law allows for fines up to \$100 per plant). The Senate amended the bill to allow municipalities to pass local bans on invasive plants after February 1, 2006.

**Status: Passed Senate,
Died in the House**

SB 871 Expanding the Bottle Bill

SB 871 would have updated the existing Bottle Bill by requiring a deposit on single-serve bottled water. Per capita consumption of bottled water has more than doubled over last decade and

while 70% of deposit beverage containers are redeemed for recycling, only 12% of the water bottles are recovered through recycling programs. Sen. Don Williams carried the water on this bill.

**Status: Passed Senate,
Died in the House**

SB 876 Mercury Warnings

If consumed, certain fish and shellfish contaminated with mercury can be harmful to children and to pregnant and nursing women.

SB 876 would have required stores that sell fish to make pamphlets developed by DPH available to customers explaining these health risks. Despite support for this bill by Senate President Don Williams, it did not pass the Senate until the final days of the session. Opponents were able to stop this bill in the House by threatening to add controversial smoking-ban provisions.

**Status: Passed Senate,
Died in the House**

SB 916 Pesticides at Schools and Daycares

SB 916 bans the use of lawn-care pesticides on the grounds of grammar schools and children's day-care centers as of January 2006, except to eliminate immediate threats to human health. Grammar school athletic fields will be exempt from the ban until July 2008, but must be maintained by using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) methods until that time. A similar bill, HB 6921, was championed by Rep. Andrew Fleischmann. The key provisions of his bill were eventually included in SB 916, which was passed in the Senate with the support of Senator Andrea Stillman. Rep. Roberta Willis also deserves credit for hard work on this issue.

**Status: Passed,
Public Act #05-252**

SB 920 Establish CT Clean Diesel Program

In CT, Health risks from diesel are some of the highest in the nation. SB 920 calls for DEP to develop a plan to reduce diesel emissions 74% by the year 2015 and help the state meet federal air-quality standards. DEP must still develop measures to reduce the content of home heating oil and off road diesel.

**Status: Passed,
Special Act #05-7**

SB 923 High Performance Energy Efficiency Green Building Standards

SB 923 would have required projects financed 25% or more with state funds to meet standards (LEEDS) adopted by the US Green Building Council. These apply to major issues, including energy use, water consumption, site impacts, construction materials, daylighting, ventilation and indoor air quality. The bill would primarily affect construction and renovation of public schools. We applaud Rep. Mary Mushinsky, Rep. Denise Merrill and Rep. Michael Caron for their leadership on this issue.

**Status: Passed Senate,
Died in the House**

HB 1294 Minimum Stream Flow Regulations

HB 1294 requires the DEP to revise outdated stream flow regulations. Over 60 of the State's rivers have unnaturally low flow and some even run dry in the summer due to a lack of science-based standards for allowing water diversion. This adversely affects both people and wildlife. A lower quantity of water often means a higher concentration of wastes and pollutants. Passage of SB 1294 is a first step toward raising the minimum flow levels to acceptable standards for Connecticut rivers and streams. The original concept



over \$100,000. Rep. James Spallone deserves credit for championing this worthwhile legislation.

Status: Died in Finance Committee

HB 6570 Plans of Conservation and Development

HB 6570 requires the OPM to identify Priority Funding Areas, develop management plans for key corridors, and encourage consistency between local, regional and state plans of Conservation and Development. State funding would be focused on designated priority areas. Although the final version contained troubling exemptions for municipalities, the bill as a whole is a first step toward better land use planning in Connecticut. Rep. Lew Wallace did a tremendous job of shepherding this highly complex and controversial bill through the legislature. Rep. Craig Miner led the opposition on this bill.

Status: Passed, Public Act #05-205

HB 6703 Planning for Community Preservation

HB 6703 was a “smart growth” bill that contained a variety of assistance and incentives for better land use planning. It would have allowed the State’s five largest cities to create a split-rate tax to encourage development of urban areas and discourage sprawl. The bill also called for the creation of a Statewide Geographic Information System (GIS)—information that is invaluable to land use planners, but often too costly for towns to obtain. A third item would have focused on improving land use education and training programs.

Status: Died in Finance Committee

HB 6879 Mercury Reduction

Environmental advocates opposed HB 6879 because it would have weakened landmark legislation, the Mercury Education and

Reduction Act of 2002, by exempting a number of products from existing law. These exemptions related to the sale, labeling, distribution, and collection of various mercury-containing items, such as button cell batteries, high intensity discharge lamps and the labeling of lighting fixtures. Representative Dick Roy ultimately responded to environmental concerns and ensured that no provisions of this bill came to a floor vote in the House.

Status: Died in the House

HB 6906 Energy Independence (aka HB 7501)

HB 6906 died during the regular session because of utility opposition to the removal of a provision that would have allowed them to keep millions of ratepayer dollars. Nevertheless, the bill was passed in the special session under a new number, HB 7501. The bill contains a range of new incentives and programs that were developed in response to high energy prices and federally imposed congestion charges. Environmental provisions of the bill include incentives for conservation and energy efficiency, distributed generation, natural gas conservation, and development of clean energy sources to reduce air pollution. Senator John Fonfara championed this bill.

Status: Passed in Special Session (HB 7501), Public Act #05-1

HB 6908 Clean Car Incentives

HB 6908 requires DEP to study and recommend incentives for Connecticut consumers to purchase vehicles with lower emissions. Areas to study include a ranking system for vehicles based on their greenhouse-gas emissions, rebates on the sales tax of low-emission vehicles, and higher taxes for higher polluting vehicles.

Status: Passed, Special Act #05-6

Funding for the Environment—Mixed Results

TRANSPORTATION: GOOD RESULT

The Legislature passed Governor Rell’s proposal for purchase of new rail cars, buses and highway improvements. In addition to improvements to I-95, the state DOT will acquire 342 new rail cars for the New Haven Line (financed with \$1 per trip surcharge on tickets on that line), construct new rail maintenance facilities, and purchase 25 new transit buses.

OPEN SPACE: MIXED RESULT

During Special Session, a two-year bond package passed containing, in years one and two, \$6 million and \$5 million for the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust; \$7.5 million and \$5 million for the Open Space Matching Grants programs; \$8 million and \$10 million for the Farmland Purchase of Development Rights (which is separate from funding generated under SB 410). Unfortunately, a bill which gave local communities the ability to independently raise funds for conservation did not make it.

PARKS: BAD RESULT

Park funding was slashed by \$1.7 million for each of the two years. This will have serious implications for parks maintenance. Language in the Special Session allows DEP to retain a higher portion of park fees that would otherwise go into the general fund. But this is no fix. It leaves the DEP dangerously dependent upon an uncertain stream of funding to support general operating costs of parks that ought to be coming out of the state’s General Fund. This is a major setback for DEP.

CLEAN WATER: BAD RESULT

The state bond package contains \$20 million per year for Clean Water projects. This is well below the \$100 million per year deemed absolutely necessary for DEP to provide grants to towns that rely on help from the state to upgrade their local sewage treatment plants. As a result, many towns will not be able to perform vital clean water projects and our water will be less healthy. This will have serious implications for the clean up of Long Island Sound.

Lobbyist Influence

This session, several high profile issues underscored how politics, lobbyists, and “deals” often win out over the environment’s best interest. Every day there are scores of lobbyists at the Capitol, paid by special interests to work for or against legislation. When, early in the session, the Senate passed the Bottle Bill expanding current law to include water bottles, industry hired many of the top lobbying firms to work to defeat the bill in the House. According to state ethics filings, opponents of the Bottle Bill (primarily soda manufacturers, distributors, and grocers) spent \$300,000 on lobbying and much of that effort was focused on assuring that the Bottle Bill did not pass, or even come to a vote. Environmental lobbyists and many volunteer advocates worked to support the bill, but they were overwhelmed by the opposition’s lobbying expenditures. Post session, these same lobbyists are a major source of campaign contributions—a fact that is certainly not lost on legislators regardless of how they might otherwise feel about the legislation. The best, and perhaps only realistic counter is engaged and educated public involvement in the legislative process. Call CTLCV to find out how you can make a difference!



was introduced by Sen. Andrew Roraback, and later championed by Sen. Andrea Stillman and Rep. Mary Mushinsky. Rep. Len Fasano attached a weakening amendment in the P&D Committee, which was successfully removed by Representative Lew Wallace in the House.

Status: Passed, Public Act #05-142

HB 6393 Community Preservation and Investment

HB 6393 would have allowed municipalities—if they chose to do so—to raise funds for farmland, forest and water resource protection and recreation areas by applying a conveyance tax up to 1% on real estate transactions



Honor Roll

GOVERNOR JODI RELL has proven, in her first full year in office, that she is committed to protecting the environment as well as protecting the health and well being of our citizens. She enthusiastically endorsed and signed bills that were critical to both the environment and health of communities in the state, and took the leadership role in proposing and pursuing the \$1.3 billion transit and highway improvement package.

COMMISSIONER GINA MCCARTHY, appointed by Governor Rell in Dec. 2004, quickly mastered state issues and assumed a strong leadership role in implementing Connecticut's newly adopted Global Warming agenda. In her short time as Commissioner she has reached out to actively engage various constituencies in forging the state's environmental agenda. Her enthusiasm, competency and dedication to getting the job done right, despite the diminished funding available to her agency, has earned her high respect.

SENATOR DON WILLIAMS, the newly elected President of the Senate, was previously Co-Chair of the Environment Committee and has historically been a strong supporter of the League's issues. With his new responsibilities—and power—he has continued to be a leading advocate for, and an ally of, the environmental community in promoting sound policy.

SPEAKER JIM AMMAN is also a new leader in the legislature. As Speaker of the House, he was helpful in assuring that many environmental bills on the calendar were debated and voted upon, despite strong and time-consuming opposition that might otherwise have led to legislation being talked to death.

Another Rat

Language that is sneaked into a bill outside the public process is known as a legislative “rat.”

Vigilance is vital when the legislature is in session—a fact that was reaffirmed this past session when Senator Eileen Daily attempted to reverse a hard-won agreement that was the result of hundreds of hours of negotiations between environmentalists and the water companies. The agreement, which provides tax incentives and shareholder benefits for water companies if they sell or give land to entities that would permanently protect it as open space, was a major success of the 2004 legislative session.

During the 2005 session Senator Daily introduced legislation in conflict with the negotiated agreement that would have allowed the incentive to go for any purpose, not just for open space. Well after the bill was soundly defeated in the environment committee, she inserted this “rat” language into an omnibus bill at the end of the session that is necessary to implement the state budget. Fortunately leaders spotted it and the outcry that resulted enabled key legislators to delete the language.



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