

2000
Environmental
Scorecard



CONNECTICUT
LEAGUE OF
CONSERVATION
VOTERS
CTLCV

Connecticut League of Conservation Voters
118 Oak Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106

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About the Scorecard

The Connecticut League of Conservation Voters proudly presents its first Environmental Scorecard. It reflects input from our diverse Board of Directors and our Executive Director, along with input from a broad array of environmental organizations in Connecticut. Our newly formed organization kicked off its activities at the State Capital in January 2000. We announced our goals and first year agenda, and we identified many of the issues that we would be tracking. During this very short eight week session we distributed eight scorecard alerts to let legislators know which bills we felt were important. Some issues were added as the session progressed. This scorecard summarizes our findings.

The Connecticut League of Conservation Voters

Working in concert with Connecticut's environmental community, the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters (CTLCV) protects the environment by helping to elect environmentally responsible candidates to state and local office, then holding them accountable to the environmental agenda.

CTLCV conducts rigorous research on candidates. We back our endorsements with expertise, assisting candidates with media, fundraising and grassroots organizing strategies they need to win. We work to educate voters, then help get out the vote on election day

CTLCV is also a legislative watchdog. Each year, we will track environmental bills and votes in Connecticut's General Assembly and work to make sure legislators hear from environmental voters. At the end of every session, we will publish the *Connecticut Environmental Scorecard* to help voters distinguish between the rhetoric and the reality of a lawmaker's record.

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CTLCV
118 Oak Street
Hartford, CT 06106
860-524-1194

A Message from the Co-Chairs...

During the 2000 session of the General Assembly, the Connecticut environmental community helped CTLCV identify and track environmental legislation. Members of the House and Senate were notified of these bills at the beginning of the session and through regular CTLCV "Scorecard Alerts."

Our intention was to be able to inform voters how their elected representatives acted on these issues so that their performance could be "scored" and they could be measured not by what they choose to say to voters but by what they actually did in the legislature.

Our attempt to present to you a complete environmental scorecard for 2000 has led us to an unanticipated outcome. We do not mean to suggest that the votes reflected in the scorecard are not worthy of scrutiny or praise. They should provide important guides to voters. But perhaps the most meaningful point is that there are so few votes, and most did not result in pro-environment legislation. Does this reflect the importance your legislator attaches to your health and environment?

Closed-door caucuses, recommitals, last minute substantive changes to bills, hearings on "subject matter" rather than actual language, and voice votes—often make it impossible to put the responsibility for failure or success at the feet of the appropriate legislator.

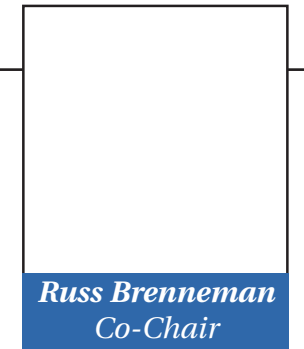
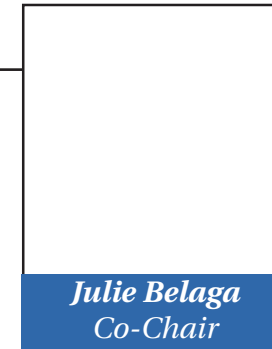
Leaders and legislators who do not try to change these practices must share responsibility for their continuance. Taxpayers who pay \$44 million annually to maintain the Connecticut General Assembly imagine that they are funding an open, accessible and accountable process, and this is sadly not the case.

Our Board members have broad experience in legislative affairs—five of them are former legislators. We know that change must occur if we are to retain the gains we achieved in the past and meet new challenges to protect our state's environment from harm. New stewards and new forms of stewardship are called for. The Connecticut League of Conservation Voters is proud to join the many organizations and individuals who continue to be involved in this great task.

An important form of stewardship occurs in the voting booth. The purpose of this Scorecard is to inform voters so that they may act responsibly. We encourage you to use this information and let your voices be heard!

Julie Belaga

Russ Brenneman



Session Overview

When this session of the legislature convened in February, many questioned what could be accomplished during the shortest time frame for a legislative session in recent memory.

In the end, while legislation on the “Filthy Five” and the Charter Oak Open Space Fund dominated environmental attention this year, the 2000 session of the General Assembly may long be remembered as one of missed opportunities. In addition to the demise of legislation that would have cleaned up the dirtiest power plants in Connecticut, the legislature failed to act on a wide range of reforms including bills to require annual testing of sewage sludge incinerators, to expand the state’s purchase of environmentally preferable products and to establish a Water Planning Council and a Blue Ribbon Commission on “Smart Growth.”

In fact, out of all the bills identified by the environmental community, only four were voted on in the Senate, only two were voted on in the House, and only one passed both chambers.

The battle of the “Filthy Five” has been well chronicled in news stories and by editorial boards throughout the state. The Legislature missed a golden opportunity to close a loophole in our emissions standards, which permits these five plants to operate under weaker standards than other power sources in Connecticut. Despite an organizing campaign, which produced co-sponsorships from a majority of both the House and the Senate, the bill was defeated by a series of

last minute amendments and parliamentary maneuvers.

Open space was the big environmental winner this session. In addition to the approval of \$32 million in state bond funds, the legislature created a new open space trust fund with an initial investment of \$10 million from the state surplus. Also included in the legislation was a section critical to the preservation of endangered water company lands in Connecticut.

There are full descriptions of all the bills included in this scorecard. We also describe several bills and amendments in the summary section that were not scored because there were either no identifiable votes, or because there was no lobbying effort to clearly define the environmental implications. These bills are notable not just for their intent, but also because they illustrate some of the problems in gathering information.

Lastly, the state budget that was passed this session failed to include key environmental initiatives including restoration of \$900,000 in funding for an Aerial Survey that provides critical data for environmental planning and protection, and \$400,000 for technical staff at four Soil & Water Conservation districts across the state.

Many unsuccessful initiatives—both good and bad—will no doubt re-emerge in the 2001 legislative session.



Environmental Bills—Why They Were Counted

1 HB 5173 WORKING LANDS

Connecticut's farmland is vanishing at an alarming rate. With hundreds of farms currently on the market, it is estimated that sprawling development will consume all of Connecticut's remaining farmland in 50 years. The "working lands" proposal introduced by Planning and Development Chair Jeff Davis would have helped the state use its unspent \$6.1 million, and authorize an additional \$10 million in a lump sum that would ensure swift action when farms go on the market.

Rep. Bill Belden's amendment in the Finance Committee weakened the bill by removing the lump sum funding provision. This resulted in two separate scorecard votes for that committee.

Pro-Environment Vote: NO to the amendment, YES to the bill

Senate Action: None

House Action: None

2 HB 5264 SMART GROWTH

Connecticut lags behind other states in developing a comprehensive policy on sprawl—affecting almost every aspect of the environmental protection of land, air and water. Planning and Development Committee Chair Jeff Davis introduced a bill to establish a blue ribbon commission to study "smart growth" and make policy recommendations. Despite volumes of public testimony in support of this long overdue initiative, including written support from Senate leadership, the House leadership refused to put the bill on the Calendar and recommitted it to committee with no explanation.

Pro-Environment Vote: YES

Senate Action: None

House Action: None

3 HB 5583 MINIMIZING AIR POLLUTION FROM POWER PLANTS

This legislation would have required Connecticut's five worst polluting power plants to meet modern standards for levels of Nitrogen Oxides and Sulfur Dioxide emissions. Advocates for the legislation garnered bi-partisan support from 118 co-sponsors, but an eleventh-hour amendment in the House weakened the legislation.

Efforts to put the bill back on track fell apart in the Senate after legislators voted to restore the stronger standards, then immediately repealed the amendment and added unacceptable provisions. Supporters of the stronger standards withdrew the legislation fearing the bill would only make cleanup more difficult.

Pro-Environment Vote: YES, with no amendments

Senate Action: Passed with Senate Amendment B

House Action: Passed with House Amendment A

4 HB 5582 ANNUAL TESTING OF SEWAGE SLUDGE INCINERATORS

Rep. Jim O'Rourke's bill to reduce mercury pollution from incinerators that burn sewage sludge was allowed to die on the House Calendar. The bill, which passed almost unanimously through three committees early in the session, would have required operators of these incinerators to conduct tests on a more rigorous timeline for mercury, metals and hydrocarbons in air emissions.

Pro-Environment Vote: YES

Senate Action: None

House Action: None

5 HB 5883 OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND

At the beginning of the session legislative leaders proposed using \$50 million of the state operating budget surplus to create a new Charter Oak Open Space Trust Fund. By session's end, the newly created fund was reduced to \$10 million. Strong Water company lands protections were written into the bill.

Pro-Environment Vote: YES

Senate Action: Passed

House Action: Passed

6 SB 383 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

The statewide Solid Waste Management Plan was established to help Connecticut reduce the amount of solid waste generated annually. The DEP is charged with implementing the plan, and may require municipalities and the CRRRA (Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority) to comply with the plan.

This bill would have made the Solid Waste Management Plan a "regulation," creating unneeded delays in its implementation. Rep. Jim O'Rourke successfully blocked the bill by filing amendments that would not have been supported by proponents of the bill, including an incinerator moratorium and expanded recycling. As a result, the bill died on the House calendar.

Pro-Environment Vote: NO

Senate Action: Passed

House Action: None

7 SB 439 STATE PURCHASE OF ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PRODUCTS

This non-controversial bill would have set a comprehensive policy for the state to purchase environmentally preferable products, services and practices. It would have increased the post-consumer content of recycled paper used by the state from ten to thirty percent and would require the state to adopt federal standards for the purchase and use of the state motor vehicle fleet. The bill was amended in the Senate to include some reporting requirements, but died on the House calendar.

Pro-Environment Vote: YES

Senate Action: Passed

House Action: None

8 SB 504 WATER PLANNING COUNCIL

This bill would have established a process to look at key water-related issues including water allocation, diversion, open space, and water rates, and would have created a task force of all the major players. The budget failed to include \$100,000 to establish the Water Planning Council and the bill subsequently died on the Senate Calendar.

Pro-Environment Vote: YES

Senate Action: None

House Action: None

9 AMENDMENT TO SB 640 ADRIAEN'S LANDING RESTORING CEPA

Despite protests from the environmental community, the bill which approved \$771 million in funding for the Adriaen's Landing project also includes exemptions from two core environmental laws, Connecticut's Environmental Policy Act (CEPA) and Connecticut's Environmental Protection Act. An amendment offered by Rep. Jessie Stratton to restore the normal environmental review process was soundly defeated 114 to 36 in the House in one of the only environmental roll call votes this session.

Pro-Environment Vote: YES

House Action: Failed

Senate Action: None

Noteworthy Bills That Were Not Scored

—A backdoor attack on Connecticut's wildlife statues was thwarted when the House stripped an amendment that would allow the taking of raptors from the wild to use for the purpose of falconry. This significant change was added by Senator Adela Eads during the final weeks of session, and had not received a public hearing. No individual votes on this amendment were recorded.

—A provision was added to the Urban Harbors bill by Environment Committee Chair Senator Eileen Daily that would have weakened environmental standards for emergency dredging of Clinton Harbor. The bill also directed the DEP Commissioner to issue the dredging permit. The provision about dredging standards was removed in the House, but not the improper directive to the DEP Commissioner. No individual votes on these amendments were recorded in either chamber.

—Rep. Mary Mushinsky successfully added a pro-environment amendment to the same Urban Harbors bill to require the South Central Regional Water Authority to protect the environmental quality of Lake Whitney and the Mill River Corridor. There were no recorded votes on the amendment in either Chamber

Senate Votes

—An attempt was made to vastly expand a pilot program that rewards businesses with exemplary environmental track records before the program was fully set up or tested. This bill, introduced by the Environment Committee, which would have extended the same benefits to poor performers participating in the voluntary audit program, raised serious questions about possible environmental impacts.

—The Environment Committee introduced a bill to give the University of Connecticut special treatment under Connecticut’s Environmental Policy Act (CEPA). Rather than vote on the bill, the Environment Committee substantially changed it in private Caucus, and then voted for the changed bill without further public input. This all-too-common practice is a clear example of the need for better public access as decisions are being made.

Scoring

Votes for the environment are designated with a one (1) and votes against the environment are designated with a zero (0).

Absences can help or hurt a bill. Because not voting is sometimes deliberate and often a decisive factor, absences and abstentions are included in the scoring if the vote was anything but unanimous. Scored absences are marked with an A and unscored absences are marked with an a.

CTLCV is also scoring committee votes. Each committee vote counts exactly the same as a floor vote. Not all legislators serve on committees that vote on environmental legislation. Each legislator is assigned a percentage score based on his or her total number of floor and committee votes. A perfect score is 100%.

Unless otherwise noted, the “Pro-Environment Vote” in the bill summaries refers to House and Senate votes.

Key

- AP Appropriate Committee
- E Environment Committee
- ET Energy and Technology Committee
- F Finance Committee
- GA Government and Administration Committee
- PD Planning and Development Committee
- PH Public Health Committee
- NO ACTION



SENATOR	PARTY	DISTRICT	COMMITTEES										TOTAL VOTES	PRO-ENV. VOTES	% SCORE			
			1. MARLAND	2. SMART GROWTH	3. LOWER PLANTS	4. SLOTTURE	5. OPEN SPACE	6. SOLID WASTE	7. PURCHASING	8. WATER COUNCIL	9. CEPA							
Aniskovich	R	012														5	3	60%
Bazek	D	006														6	3	50%
Capozello	R	024														6	4	67%
Cioto	D	009														4	3	75%
Colapinto	D	031														4	3	75%
Coleman	D	002	1													7	6	86%
Cook	D	018														6	4	67%
Crisco	D	017														6	5	83%
Dzilk	R	023	1	1	1											9	8	89%
DeLuca	R	052														4	2	50%
Eads	R	030														4	2	50%
Fonfara	D	001	A	1												7	5	71%
Freedman	R	026														6	5	83%
Gaffey	D	013	1	1	1	1										8	7	88%
Genuario	R	025														7	6	86%
Giuglielmo	R	035	1	1												6	4	67%
Guadalupe	R	021														4	2	50%
Handley	D	024														7	6	86%
Harp	D	010														7	6	86%
Hertley	R	008	1													8	6	75%
Jepsen	D	027														4	3	75%
Kessel	R	007														5	3	60%
LeBeau	D	003	A	1												5	3	60%
Laxney	D	011	U	0												5	2	40%
McDermott	D	034														6	4	67%
McKinney	R	028		1	1											9	7	78%
Nickerson	R	055	0	0												6	2	33%
Pean	D	023		0												6	4	67%
Peters	D	020														6	4	67%
Prague	D	019														7	6	86%
Scarpetti	R	022														4	3	75%
Smith	R	014	A	1												6	3	50%
Somona	R	016														4	2	50%
Sullivan	D	005														4	3	75%
Upton	R	015														4	2	50%
Williams	D	029														6	5	83%

House Votes

REPRESENTATIVE	PARTY	DISTRICT	1 FARM LAND	2 SMART GROWTH		3 OPEN SPACE		4 SOLID WASTE		5 PURCHASING		6 WATER COUNCIL		7 CEQA		TOTAL VOTES	PERCENT VOTES	
				Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N			
Abrams	D	083													1	5	4	80%
Adinolfi	R	103													0	3	3	75%
Altebelli	D	082													0	5	4	80%
Arbann	D	118													1	2	3	100%
Backer	D	121													1	0	1	78%
Beals	D	058													1	4	4	100%
Bearon	D	072													0	4	3	75%
Belden	R	113													0	4	1	25%
Bernhard	R	116													0	2	1	50%
Blackwell	R	012													0	2	1	25%
Bocher	R	143													0	2	1	50%
Broughton	R	138													0	10	8	80%
Brubaker	D	022													0	6	4	67%
Caleo	R	142													0	2	1	50%
Cardo	D	052													1	6	5	83%
Caron	R	044													0	4	2	50%
Carson	R	108													0	6	3	50%
Cartey	D	007													0	6	4	67%
Caruso	D	126													1	7	6	86%
Christ	D	011													0	5	3	60%
Cleary	R	086													0	7	5	71%
Clemmons	D	140													0	4	3	75%
Clemmons	D	056													0	6	4	67%
Cocco	D	127													0	4	2	50%
Collins	R	117													0	7	5	71%
Conway	D	075													0	3	2	67%
Curey	D	110													0	6	4	67%
D'Amico	R	071													0	1	2	50%
Dandrew	R	050													0	1	2	50%
Dargatzis	D	115													0	2	1	50%
Davis	D	050													1	5	8	80%
DeGobbo	R	070													0	5	2	40%
DeMarinis	D	040													0	7	7	100%
DePino	R	097													0	2	1	50%
DiCicco	D	079													0	4	2	50%
Diaz	D	130													1	6	5	83%
Dickman	R	132													0	3	2	67%
Dillon	R	092													0	4	3	75%
Donovan	D	084													1	7	6	86%
Doyle	D	028													0	7	1	50%
Dyson	D	094													0	6	4	67%
Eberle	D	075													0	3	2	67%
Espinoza	D	116													0	7	3	70%
Fairman	R	061													0	7	5	71%
Farr	R	019													0	5	3	60%
Fodole	R	147													0	2	1	50%
Folman	D	086													0	2	1	50%
Ferrari	R	062													0	5	3	60%
Flaherty, B.	R	068													0	5	3	60%
Flaherty, P.	D	008													0	4	3	75%
Fleischmann	D	018													1	7	7	100%
Fortann	D	087													1	9	8	89%

House Votes

REPRESENTATIVE	PARTY	DISTRICT	1 FARM LAND	2 SMART GROWTH		3 OPEN SPACE		4 SOLID WASTE		5 PURCHASING		6 WATER COUNCIL		7 CEQA		TOTAL VOTES	PERCENT VOTES	
				Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N			
Fox	D	144													0	2	0	0%
Frey	R	111													0	5	3	60%
Fritz	D	090													0	7	1	90%
Garcia	D	128													0	7	1	90%
Garvey	R	007													0	2	1	50%
Geraghty	D	025													0	5	3	60%
Geratana	D	023													0	5	3	60%
Giannaros	D	021													1	5	4	80%
Godfrey	D	110													1	2	2	100%
Gonzalez	D	003													0	2	1	50%
Goggins	R	021													0	6	1	67%
Grimani	D	047													0	2	1	50%
Green	D	001													0	2	1	50%
Greene	R	105													0	2	1	50%
Harris	D	014													1	5	3	100%
Hartley	R	078													0	2	1	50%
Hartman	R	120													0	2	1	50%
Hartley	D	073													0	7	1	90%
Huganoy	R	016													0	6	2	67%
Huss	R	150													0	5	3	60%
Horton	D	012													1	6	4	67%
Hyslop	D	079													0	2	1	50%
Jarjuro	D	074													0	2	2	50%
James	D	059													1	7	6	86%
Johnston	D	051													0	8	6	75%
Kealey	D	125													0	4	2	50%
Kerensky	D	014													0	5	3	60%
Kirkley-Buy	D	005													0	3	2	67%
Klarides	R	114													0	2	1	50%
Krupp	D	137													1	5	5	100%
Lardito	D	035													1	1	2	75%
Lawlor	D	099													0	3	2	67%
Lockton	R	149													0	1	2	50%
Lyon	D	146													0	2	1	50%
Maddox	R	066													1	8	5	61%
Malone	D	017													0	3	2	67%
Mantilla	D	004													0	3	2	67%
Martinez	D	095													0	2	1	25%
Martello	R	065													0	2	1	50%
McCluskey	D	020													0	5	5	100%
McDonald	D	148													0	4	2	50%
McGrattan	D	042													1	8	7	88%
McNair	D	054													1	5	4	80%
Meiz	R	101													0	6	4	67%
Michele	D	077													0	5	3	60%
Mikael	D	045													0	7	5	71%
Miller	R	122													0	6	5	83%
Moelansky	D	052													1	9	8	89%
Murphy	D	081													1	7	6	86%
Mushinsky	D	085													1	9	7	78%
Nafis	D	027													0	6	4	67%
Nardella	D	089													1	7	3	100%

House Votes

REPRESENTATIVE	PARTY	DISTRICT	1 FARMLAND	2 SMART GROWTH	3 NATURE	4 OPEN SPACE	5 SOLID WASTE	6 PURCHASING	7 WATER COUNCIL	8 CEPA	TOTAL VOTES	PER-ENV. VOTES SCORE
Newton	D	134									0 4 1	25%
Nystrom	R	046									0 3 5	71%
O'Neil	R	069									0 4 3	75%
Orange	D	048									0 6 4	67%
Orefice	D	017									0 3 7	67%
O'Rourke	D	032									1 6 6	100%
Panaroni	D	102									1 2 7	100%
Pawelkiewicz	D	049									0 2 1	50%
Piscopo	R	076									0 9 7	78%
Powers	R	151									0 2 1	50%
Prelli	R	063									0 7 5	71%
Pudlin	D	024									0 2 1	50%
Raczka	D	100									0 3 2	67%
Roraback	R	064									0 7 5	71%
Rowe	R	123									0 2 1	50%
Roy	D	119									1 10 8	80%
Ryan, J.	R	141									0 3 2	67%
Ryan, K.	D	139									1 7 6	86%
Samowitz	D	129									0 7 4	57%
SanAngelin	R	174									0 7 5	71%
Sauer	D	036									1 3 2	67%
Sawyer	R	055									0 2 1	50%
Sayers	D	060									0 4 3	75%
Scipia	D	093									0 5 3	60%
Scribner	R	107									0 7 6	86%
Serra	D	033									0 4 3	75%
Shen	R	112									0 2 1	50%
Simmons	R	043									0 5 3	60%
Staples	D	096									1 4 2	50%
Stallman	D	038									0 4 1	25%
Stone, C.	D	009									0 5 4	80%
Stone, J.	R	134									0 6 4	67%
Stratton	D	017									1 8 7	88%
Stripp	R	135									0 6 4	67%
Talarita	D	058									1 4 3	75%
Tercyak	R	026									0 3 2	67%
Thompson	D	013									1 6 5	83%
Touucci	D	104									0 2 1	50%
Traglia	D	145									0 6 4	67%
Tulisano	D	029									0 2 1	33%
Tymniak	R	111									0 5 3	60%
Villano	D	091									0 3 2	67%
Wallace	D	109									0 7 5	71%
Ward	R	086									0 2 1	50%
Wasverman	R	106									0 4 2	50%
Widlicz	D	098									1 7 6	86%
Winkler	R	041									0 5 3	60%

Behind the Scenes...

Scorecards do not reflect some important, but less tangible, elements of legislative work, such as when a legislator actively “works” a bill by helping to build support for its passage

— **Reps. Moira Lyons, Ken Bernhard and John Stripp, and Sens. George Jepsen, Bill Nickerson, and Judy Freedman** led the effort to pass the Open Space bill.

— **Reps. Chris Caruso and Jim O’Rourke,**

and **Sens. Edith Prague and Mary Ann Handley** fought hard for responsible power plant cleanup legislation.

— **Rep. Jessie Stratton** fought for open space and forced a roll call vote on the CEPA amendment.

— **Rep. Jeff Davis’** efforts to bring the issue of sprawl to the forefront were an important step towards responsible planning.

— **Rep. Mary Mushinsky** worked for better protections of Lake Whitney and Mill River corridor.

Senate Average 68%

House Average 65%

100% Score:

Rep. Amann, Rep. Beals, Rep. DiMarinis, Rep. Fleischmann, Rep. Godfrey, Rep. Hamm, Rep. Knopp, Rep. McCluskey, Rep. Nardello, Rep. O’Rourke, Rep. Panaroni

