

CONNECTICUT LEAGUE OF

CONSERVATION VOTERS



2006

Environmental Scorecard

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

Session in Review



TRAFFIC JAM

One of the difficulties in the short 2006 session of the Legislature for environmental, energy and health bills as well as many others, was the sheer number of bills that emerged from committees and awaited floor action. Worthy bills survived the committee process only to die on the crowded calendar on the last night of the session. Relatively few bills prevailed compared to recent years.

Significant Wins

- Land trust property protections
- Clean cars emission ratings
- Notification of intent to build in a drinking-water watershed
- Mass transit funding
- Limit on sulfur content of home heating oil
- Water basin planning

(but with funds stuck in the failed bond package)

Shepaug River settlement funding

Funding for the Environment

As of the printing of this scorecard, a measure of the success or failure of the 2006 session depends on the bonding package. Funds for clean water projects (sewage treatment), water basin planning and diesel emission reductions are essential. In the past four years, these funds have been slashed. Other important projects include funding to protect farmland and open space. All of these matters are investments in our state's environmental infrastructure and the quality of life in our state.

Fortunately, the state's operating budget was adjusted by adding back \$500,000 for state park staff, slightly offsetting the \$1.7 million that was removed from the Department of Environmental Protection parks funding during budget negotiations in 2005.

Unfortunate Losses

For a variety of reasons, many other important bills did not prevail leaving much work for the year ahead. Early in the session, the bottle bill and the pesticides bill were defeated by industry influence. During the committee process, several good bills were turned into bad bills as they were amended, most notably, a bill banning toxic flame retardants and a bill banning the sale of certain invasive plants. The invasive plants bill was improved in the waning hours of session, but it died anyway for lack of time.

An important energy bill that provided for improvements in energy efficiencies and conservation failed to pass because of its complexity, although pieces of this could be brought back if the legislature were called into a Special Session. And the legislature was unable to address another important bill that would have reformed the way state-owned land has been given away without environmental review. We expect all of these initiatives to be re-introduced in 2007 and we welcome the opportunity to work with legislators to help get the job done.

- Bottled water bill
- Pesticides ban in all schools
- Environmental review of state lands
- Gas and oil conservation & efficiency
- Diesel emission reduction
- Ban on PBDE (toxic flame retardant)
- Enhanced DEP authority to protect rivers and streams
- Environmental justice
- Humane education
- Limits on all terrain vehicles (ATVs)
- Invasive plants controls

LEGISLATORS FAIL TO PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES ON THE NORWICH HOSPITAL SITE



In January 2006 the state transferred 400 acres along the Thames River to the Town of Preston for one dollar based on the town fulfilling certain conditions. The property included the campus of the state-owned Norwich Hospital and more than 250 acres of unspoiled woodlands and high-quality streams. This transfer raised an important issue in that no environmental review was required by statute.

The sale, which includes no protections for natural resources, had to be approved by the General Assembly's Finance Committee and the Government Administration and Elections Committee. Only two legislators voted against the arrangement. These stand-outs were Reps. O'Rourke and Spallone.

The League and other statewide environmental groups tried to rectify this situation by expanding current law (see description of SB 188), which would not be retroactive to Preston, but would inhibit this kind of giveaway in the future. There is also a court case pending which would require the transfer to be subject to an environmental review under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act

Constituents Take Note

2006 ELECTIONS

It is our hope that environmental issues will play an important role in the 2006 elections as CTLCV informs voters about their environmental choices. To that end, this scorecard rates legislators for their environmental voting record and provides behind-the-scenes information about legislators that either assisted in promoting important environmental bills—or were obstacles in their passage.

Lowest Scores

These three Legislators earned well below 50%.

Rep. Selim Noujaim

Rep. Marilyn Giuliano

Rep. John Piscopo

In particular, Rep. Piscopo sometimes jokes about his dismal environmental record. If his constituents are not amused by his disdain for protecting Connecticut's resources, they should hold him accountable.

Re-electing our champions and replacing anti-environmental incumbents is our objective. Please contact CTLCV for information on races in your community. Thank you for helping to protect clean air, water and open space in our beautiful state!

Honor Roll



The following legislators worked exceptionally hard on one or more significant environmental issues:

- Sen. Don DeFronzo Sen. William Finch Sen. John McKinney Sen. Andrew Roraback Sen. Don Williams Rep. Andrew Fleischmann Rep. Livvy Floren Rep. Steve Fontana
- Rep. Demetrios Giannaros Rep. Jonathan Harris Rep. Denise Merrill Rep. Mary Mushinsky Rep. Jim O'Rourke Rep. James Spallone Rep. Diana Urban Rep. Roberta Willis

HOW BILLS ARE SCORED

Legislation that is included in this Scorecard represent 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 and track the progress of each. We have scored votes that made a difference in the outcome of the proposal. "0" represents an anti-environment vote. "1" represents a pro-environment vote. Legislators are graded based on their total votes for the session.

KEY:

- **S** = Senate vote **H** = House vote **A** = Appropriations Committee
- **E** = Environment Committee **ET** = Energy Committee **ED** = Education Committee
- **GA** = Government/Administration Committee **T** = Transportation Committee

Senate Votes

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	/		 	313 p.	642 Nº	642 Ni	660 CI	5261 Cars	1 5261 Conserv	5275 B. Conserv	5443	5447 Land Education	5686 ML:	5806 Amil	2005 Score	2006 Score
Senator	Party	District	28	[3 P.	นี้ นี้ ไม่ไม่ไ	มี ผู้นี้ 2	20 S	561 / v	561 0	275 p	43	4210	"/ 98g	5806 Am	05 50	006 S
/ తొ VOTE	40	<u> </u>	/ न्न ऽ	/ ଜି S	/ ਠੱ T	/ යි ED	/ ଓ Տ	්රී GA	ि ET	ن د E	/ 4ຈັ E	<i>फें</i> S	λ Α	/ 43 E	~~ ~	~~
Cappiello	R	24	1	1	1		1	UA		-	-	1	1	-	68	100
Ciotto	D	9	1	A	1		1					1	-		97	100
Colapietro	D	31	1	1	1		1					1			97	100
Coleman	D	2	1	1	-		1					1			96	100
Cook	R	- 18	1	1			1			0	0	1	0	1	73	63
Crisco	D	17	1	1			1					1		-	92	100
Daily	D	33	1	A			1					1			97	100
DeFronzo	D	6	1	1	1		1	1		1	1	1		1	97	100
DeLuca	R	32	1	1			1					1			79	100
Duff	D	25	1	1			1		1			1	1		91	100
Fasano	R	34	1	1			1					1	1		81	100
Finch	D	22	1	1	Α	A	1			1	1	1		1	97	100
Fonfara	D	1	1	1		Α	1		1			1			97	100
Freedman	R	26	1	1			1	0				1			85	80
Gaffey	D	13	1	1		A	1					1			97	100
Gomes	D	23	1	1			1					1			N/A	100
Guglielmo	R	35	1	A			1					1			88	100
Gunther	R	21	1	1			1					1			91	100
Handley	D	4	1	1			1					1	1		95	100
Harp	D	10	1	1			1					1	1		95	100
Harris	D	5	1	1			1					1	0		91	80
Hartley	D	15	1	1			1					1	0		96	80
Herlihy	R	8	1	1		1	1		1			1			70	100
Kissel	R	7	1	1			1					1			90	100
LeBeau	D	3	1	1			1					1			97	100
Looney	D	11	1	1			1					1			97	100
McDonald	D	27	1	1	A	A	1					1			97	100
McKinney	R	28	1	1	1		1			1	1	1		1	88	100
Meyer	D	12	1	1			1	1		1	1	1		1	86	100
Murphy	D	16	1	1			1			1	Α	1	1	1	90	100
Newton	D	23	1	1			1					1			98	100
Nickerson	R	36	1	1	0		1					1			86	80
Prague	D	19	1	1			1					1	1		95	100
Roraback	R	30	1	1		A	1					1			95	100
Slossberg	D	14	1	1			1					1	1		91	100
Stillman	D	20	1	1			1					1			86	100
Williams	D	29	1	1			1					1			97	100

House of Representatives Votes

Representative				313 Puri Stansfe	642 Dias	642 Di-	660 CL	5261 Cars	ilo & oil	5275 B.	5443 L	5447 I.o.	5686 ML	5806 Am		ę
resent		District		Due	llan.	Di lege	C C	it o	sen -	5 b.	1000 E		S Mar.	5806 Am.	2005 Score	2006 Score
Rep	Party	Dist	188	313	25	643	680	5261	526	25	544	544	568	580	200	200
VOIE			A	н	ED	T	н	ET	GA	E	E	н	н	E		
Abercrombie	D	83		1	1		0					1	1		100	80
Adinolfi	R	103	1	0			1					1	1		66	80
Alberts	R	50		0			0		1	0	0	1	1	1	77	50
Aldarondo	D	75		1			1					1	1		94	100
Altobello	D	82	4	1			1	1				1	1		95	100
Aman	R	14	1	0			1					1	1		70	80
Amann	D	118		1			1					1	A		100	100
Aresimowicz	D	30 52		1									1		84	100
Bacchiochi Backer	R D	52 121	1	1			1	1		1	1	1	1	0	74 92	100 89
	D	121	1	1			1	1		1	1	A	1	U	92 84	100
Barry Beamon	D	72		1			1					A 1	1		92	100
Belden	R	113		0			0					1	1		_	50
	R D	73		1			1					1	1		71 84	100
Berger Bielawa	R	2		0		1	0	1				1	1		84 85	67
Bielawa	R	2 143	0	1	1	0	1	1				1	1		85 60	71
Boucher	R D	143 22	U	1	1	0	1					1	1		95	100
Cafero	R	142	1	0			0					1	1		95 67	60
Candelaria	D	95	A	A			1					A	1		100	100
Cardin	D	53	A	1	1		1					1	1		94	100
Caron	R	44	^	0	-	1	1		0			1	1		76	67
Carson	R	108		1		1	1		U			1	1		94	100
Caruso	D	108		1			1		1			1	A		100	100
Chapin	R	67	1	0			1		-	0	0	1	0	1	61	50
Christ	D	11	-	1			1			U	0	1	1	-	100	100
Clemons	D	124		A	Α		1					A	1		100	100
D'Amelio	R	71	1	0	^		0					A	1		77	50
Dargan	D	115	-	1			1					1	1		98	100
Davis	D	117		1	1	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	92	100
DelGobbo	R	70		0	-	-	A	1		-	-	1		-	42	67
Diamantis	D	79		A			1	-				- A	1		78	100
Dillon	D	92		1			1					1	1		88	100
Donovan	D	84		1			1					1	1		100	100
Doyle	D	28		1			1					1	1		83	100
Drew	D	132		1		1	1		1			1	1		100	100
Dyson	D	94		1			1					1	1		78	100
Esposito	D	116		1			1						1		86	100
Fahrbach	R	61	1	1			0					1	1		73	80
Farr	R	19		0			0		1			1	1		75	60
Feltman	D	6	Α	1			1					1	1		96	100
Ferrari	R	62	0	0			0	1	1			1	1		42	57
Fleischmann	D	18	1	1	1		1		1			1	1		100	100
Floren	R	149		0			1		1			1	1		71	80
Fontana	D	87		1		1	1	1				1	1		98	100
Fox	D	146		1		A	1					1	1		87	100
Frey	R	111		1			1					1	1		66	100
Fritz	D	90		Α	Α		Α					Α	A		63	N/A
Genga	D	10		1	1		1	1				1	1			100
Gentile	D	104		1	1		1					1	1		97	100
Geragosian	D	25	Α	1			1					1	1		100	100
Giannaros	D	21		1			1		1			1	1		100	100

House of Representatives Votes

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Representative				313 P	642 Disc.	642 his	660 ci.	5261 Cars	5261 Conse	5275 D. Conse	5443 L	5447 I	5686 Mc	5806 Ami	2005 Score	2006 Score
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Rep	Party	Dist	188	313	642	642	680	526	526	527	544	5447	568	580	500	200
VOTE			Α	H	ED	T	H	ET	GA	E	Е	H	H	E		
Gibbons	R	150		0		0	1					1	1		76	60
Giegler	R	138		0			0					1	1		65	50
Giuliano	R	23		0	0		1			0	0	A	1	1	73	43
Godfrey	D	110		1			1					1	1		85	100
Gonzalez	D	3	1	1			1					1	1		89	100
Googins	R	31	Α	0			0					1	1		85	50
Graziani	D	57		1			1					1	1		93	100
Green	D	1		Α			1					Α	1		97	100
Greene	R	105		0			1			0	0	1	1	1	41	57
Guerrera	D	29		1		1	1					1	1		98	100
Hamm	D	34	1	1	Α		1					1	1		100	100
Hamzy	R	78		0			0					1	1		50	50
Harkins	R	120		0		1	0					1	1		64	60
Heagney	R	16		0	1		0					1	1		60	60
Heinrich	D	101	1	1	1		1					1	1		100	100
Hennessy	D	127	_	1			1			1	1	1	1	1	92	100
Hetherington	R	125		0		1	1			_	_	1	1		67	80
Hewett	D	39	1	1		-	1					1	1		100	100
Hovey	R	112	-	0	1		-					1	1		43	60
Janowski	D	56		1	-	1	1					1	1		100	100
Jarmoc	D	59		A		-	1			1	1	A	A	1	90	100
Johnston	D	55		1			0			1	1	1	1	1	79	75
Jutila	D	37	1	1		1	1			0	1	1	1	1	92	88
Kalinowski	R	100	-	0		-	1			1	1	1	1	1	75	86
	D	129		1			1			1	1	1	1	1	100	100
Keeley Kirkley Ben			4													
Kirkley-Bey	D	5	1	1	1		1					1	1		98	100
Klarides	R	114		A			-					1			85	75
Labriola	R	131		0	1		1					1	1		81	80
Lawlor	D	99		1			1		A			1	1		100	100
Leone	D	148		1		0	1					1	1		98	80
Lewis	D	8	1	1			1					1	1		87	100
Malone	D	47	A	1			1					1	1		100	100
Mann	D	140		A			1					A	1		100	100
Mantilla	D	4		1			1		1			1	1		100	100
Martinez	D	128	Α	1			1					A	1		100	100
Mazurek	D	80		1			1	1				1	1		85	100
McCluskey	D	20		1		1	1		1			1	1		100	100
McCrory	D	7	Α	1			1					1	1		97	100
McMahon	D	15		1			1					1	1		81	100
Megna	D	97		1			1	1		1	1	1	1	1	100	100
Merrill	D	54	1	1			1					1	1		100	100
Michele	D	77	1	1			1					1	1		100	100
Mikutel	D	45		1	1	1	1					1	1		94	100
Miller	R	122		0			0	1				1	1		51	60
Miner	R	66		0			1					1	1		46	75
Mioli	D	136		1		1	1			1	1	1	1	0	75	88
Moukawsher	D	40		1			1			0	A	1	1	1	78	83
Mushinsky	D	85		1			1			1	1	1	1	1	100	100
Nafis	D	27		1			1		1			1	1		100	100
Nardello	D	89		1			1	1				1	1		100	100
Noujaim	R	74		0			0					A	1		72	33

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House of Representatives Votes

	/	/ /	/ /	'nsfe _{rs}	later	110	<i>li</i> 0	312	5261 Conserv	5275 B. Conserv	Bill :	5447 Lond Education	5686 ML	Planning		
Representative	Party	District	1881	313 P.L.	642 Nic Water	642 his	660 CI.	5261 Cars	5261 0	5275 D.	5443 L	5447 Long	5686 M.	5806 Am	2005 Score	²⁰⁰⁶ Score
VOTE		~	A	H	ED	T	H	ET	GA	E	E	H	H	E	~~~	
O'Brien	D	24		1	1		1		1			1	1		100	100
O'Connor	D	35	Α	1		1	1					1	1		88	100
Olson	D	46		1			1					1	1		100	100
O'Neill	R	69	1	1			1					1	1		73	100
Orange	D	48	1	1			1					1	1		98	100
O'Rourke	D	32		1			1		1	1	1	1	1	1	100	100
Panaroni	D	102		1		1	1					1	1		69	100
Pawelkiewicz	D	49		1			1					1	1		100	100
Perone	D	137		1		1	1			1	1	A	1	1	91	100
Piscopo	R	76		0			0			0	0	A	0	1	42	17
Powers	R	151		0			0					1	1		50	50
Reinoso	D	130		1	1		1					1	1		100	100
Reynolds	D	42	0	1	0		1					1	1		100	67
Ritter	D	38	Α	1			1	1				1	1		96	100
Rowe	R	123		A			0					1	1		60	67
Roy	D	119	1	1			1			1	1	1	1	1	92	100
Ruwet	R	65		0			0					1	1		66	50
"Ryan, J."	R	141		0			1					1	1		69	75
"Ryan, K."	D	139		1			1					1	1		100	100
Sawyer	R	55		1	1	0	1					1	1		64	83
Sayers	D	60		1			1	0				1	1		89	80
Scribner	R	107		0		0	1					1	1		52	60
Serra	D	33		1		1	1					A	1		88	100
Shapiro	D	144		1	1		1					1	1		99	100
Sharkey	D	88		1			1					1	1		100	100
Sherer	R	147		0			1					1	1		78	75
Spallone	D	36		1			1		1	1	1	1	1	1	91	100
Staples	D	96		1			1					1	1		100	100
"Stone, C."	D	9		1			1					1	1		73	100
"Stone, J."	R	134	1	0			1					1	1		74	80
Stripp	R	135	1	0			1					1	1		72	80
Tallarita	D	58		1			1					1	1		100	100
Tercyak	D	26	1	1			1	1				1	1		100	100
Thompson	D	13		1			1					1	1		100	100
Truglia	D	145	1	1			1					1	1		100	100
Tymniak	R	133	1	1			1		1			1	1		64	100
Urban	R	43		1			1			1	1	A	1	1	94	100
Villano	D	91		1			1					A	1		100	100
Walker	D	93	1	1			1					1	1		100	100
Wallace	D	109	1	1	1		1					1	1		90	100
Ward	R	86		0			0					1	1		45	50
Wasserman	R	106	1	1			0					1	1		79	80
Widlitz	D	98		1			1					1	1		100	100
Wilber	D	63		1			1			0	1	1	1	A	88	83
Williams	R	68		0			0	1				1	1		52	60
Willis	D	64	Α	1			1			1	1	1	1	1	100	100
Winkler	R	41		1			1					1	1		88	100
Witkos	R	17		1	1		1					1	1		83	100
Zalaski	D	81		1			1					1	1		98	100

Bill Descriptions

LEGISLATION SCORED

SB 188 Environmental **Review for Certain State** Land Transfers The recent sale of 400 acres of state land (much of it pristine and ecologically important) to the town of Preston for \$1 in order to hand it over to a developer highlights a flawed system of state land sales. A proposal this session would have required an environmental review before any transfers or sales of state land occur and allowed for public input before final deals are in place. Reps. Spallone, Urban and Fleischmann were strong advocates of the measure, which survived many obstacles and almost passed when time ran out. Status: Failed

SB 191 High Performance **Energy Efficient Green Building Standards** Similar to legislation in 2005, this legislation would have required new state construction projects that cost at least \$1 million and receive at least 25% state financing to meet environmental standards set by the US Green Building Council. These include standards for energy use, water conservation, site impacts, construction materials, lighting, and indoor air quality. The bill failed, but Rep. Merrill ensured that certain green building provisions were included in the budget implementer. Status: Partial passage

SB 313 Protection of **Public Water Supply** This act requires that the public health (DPH) commissioner receive notice of applications submitted to local agencies about activities on public water supply watersheds. It allows the DPH commissioner to adopt regulations that incorporate federal drinking

requires DEP and DPH to study the use of ethanol as a gasoline additive. Status: Passed, Public Act #06-53

water regulations, and

SB 642 Clean Diesel and Biodiesel

Diesel soot contributes to global warming and health problems. In 2005, the DEP was mandated to develop a plan to reduce diesel emissions in the state by 75% over ten years. An initial strategy was to reduce emissions from transit buses, school buses, and state construction equipment. Other options proposed pertained to bio-diesel, sulfur content of diesel fuel, retrofit of diesel school buses, and enforcing "no-idling" laws for cars and trucks. Status: Failed

SB 660 Clean Cars

40% of Connecticut's air pollution is attributed to motor-vehicle emissions. Legislation this session stopped short of proposing incentives for consumers to purchase energy-efficient vehicles, but rather required that color-coded labels be displayed on all new vehicles for sale that would educate the consumer about the vehicle's greenhouse gas emission rating. Connecticut is the second state in the nation to pass this initiative. Sens. Finch and McKinney and Reps. Stripp, Roy and Godfrey assured that this bill was acted upon. Status: Passed, Public Act #06-161

HB 5261 Natural Gas

and Oil Conservation Similar to a fund that currently provides incentives for electricity conservation measures, legislation was introduced this year to establish a fund that would do the same for conservation of oil and gas. Status: Failed

HB 5275 Expanding the **Beverage Container Redemption Provisions** to Water Bottles Recyclable plastic bottles used to package water, juice, and sports drinks are ending up in the waste stream. Water bottles now make up about half of all single serving beverage sales. This bill would have updated the current recycling law by extending the deposit to water bottles to encourage recycling of these containers. Similar to last year, this legislation never made it to a vote of the full House due to intense industry lobbying. We laud Sen. Finch for his efforts on behalf of this bill. Status: Failed

HB 5443

Humane Education This bill would have required the State Board of Education to make available curriculum materials to local boards of education that would include instruction in the humane treatment of animals, the value of preserving a healthy and sustainable environment and the importance of compassion, respect and empathy. Rep. Urban was extremely helpful in moving this issue forward. Status: Failed

HB 5447 Encroachment on **Open Space Lands**

The Council on Environmental Quality recently reported that existing laws are not adequate to protect preserved landsincluding state parks and forests, municipal parks, and land-trust properties-from various forms of encroachment, the most common of which is the illegal felling of trees. This initiative would have stiffened outdated penalties and provided effectual legal tools to all organizations that own preserved lands. Sen. Harris and Reps. Willis and Giannaros led the effort on this bill in their chambers. Status: Passed, Public Act #06-89

HB 5686

Water Resource Planning This bill, created by Rep. Fontana, was originally drafted to restructure the Water Planning Council, to establish the Bureau of Water Resource Planning within the Office of Policy and Management, and included \$200,000 to fund the initiatives. The agencies involved testified against the bill. Status: Failed

HB 5806

All-Terrain Vehicles This bill required the registration of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), set registration fees, and fines for failing to register. It authorized the State to purchase property for use by ATV operators and barred ATV operators from driving on any other state land. The bill died when the ATV lobby refused to accept the registration requirements. Status: Failed

IMPORTANT LEGISLATION NOT SCORED

SB 196 Recycling of **Electronic Devices** Items such as televisions and computer monitors contain hazardous materials including lead and mercury. Connecticut lacks any statewide program to recycle these electronic devices. This legislation would have created a reimbursement program for authorized electronic recyclers, but the issues became a battle between manufacturers and retailers. Legislators were divided and advocates did not have sufficient information to unite around a particular position. Status: Failed

SB 211 Renewable Energy This would have promoted the development and use of renewable energy. Incentives included expanding the state's net metering law, exempting solar power from the sales tax and expanding the types of renewable energy systems that are exempt from the property tax. The bill would have required certain electricity generating facilities to comply with DEP water quality standards and for hydropower technology to meet low environmental impact standards. Rep. Fontana worked closely with advocates to negotiate language. Status: Failed

SB 657 Phase-out of **Certain Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers** This is the second year that legislation was proposed to phase out the sale of products containing certain polybrominated diphenyl ethers. These are flame retardants known to be toxic that have been banned in several states. Similar to last year, the legislature so weakened the bill that advocates could not support it. There are no votes that could be counted. Status: Failed

HB 5276 Lawn Care **Pesticides at Schools** Because of their high metabolism, children are especially vulnerable to toxic chemicals such as pesticides. In 2005, the State enacted a ban of cosmetic lawn care pesticides on the grounds of daycare centers and elementary schools to protect children from these dangerous poisons. This legislation would have extended the ban to grounds of all schools. Industry countered with a bill that would have required Integrated Pest Management in all schools with continued use of pesticides, causing both bills to die very early in the session. Status: Failed

HB 5277 Preservation of Rivers and Streams This bill would have authorized the DEP commissioner to investigate and review nonagricultural registered water diversions and order a registered diverter to apply for a permit if the diversion is deemed to be having a detrimental effect on the environment and natural

the diversion is deemed to be having a detrimental effect on the environment and natural aquatic life. Reps. Mushinsky and Willis kept a spotlight on this important issue. Status: Failed

HB 5776 Conveyance of Certain Parcels of State Land

Every year at the request of individual legislators, the "Conveyance Bill" gives away hundreds of acres with little or no public notice and follows no process to assess ecological value. At a time when the state is spending hundreds of millions of dollars to preserve land, this insider's practice of stealing land is not acceptable. This session, shining a spotlight on a 300-acre parcel sought by the town of Farmington caused it to be removed from the Conveyance bill. Rep. Giannaros should be commended for improving this legislation. Status: Passed, Special Act #06-10

HB 5808 Inspections For **Invasive Plants, Municipal Ordinances**, Funding For The Invasive Plants Council. A compromise between industry and advocates resulted in a bill that would have continued to bar municipalities from passing local ordinances regarding the sale and purchase of invasive plants. In return for accommodating industry concerns, provisions of the bill specified that a violation of the invasive plants law is an infraction and would have provided funding for the Invasive Plants Council. Unfortunately, the funding was stripped and the bill could not be repaired in time to pass either chamber. Status: Failed

HB 5844 A Road Map for Connecticut

A significant bill that was passed late in the session contained far-reaching transportation infrastructure improvements, most notably for increased commuter rail and bus service. Unfortunately, there was a disproportionate emphasis and funding for new highway development and expansion, but on balance, advocates were satisfied. Status: Passed

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