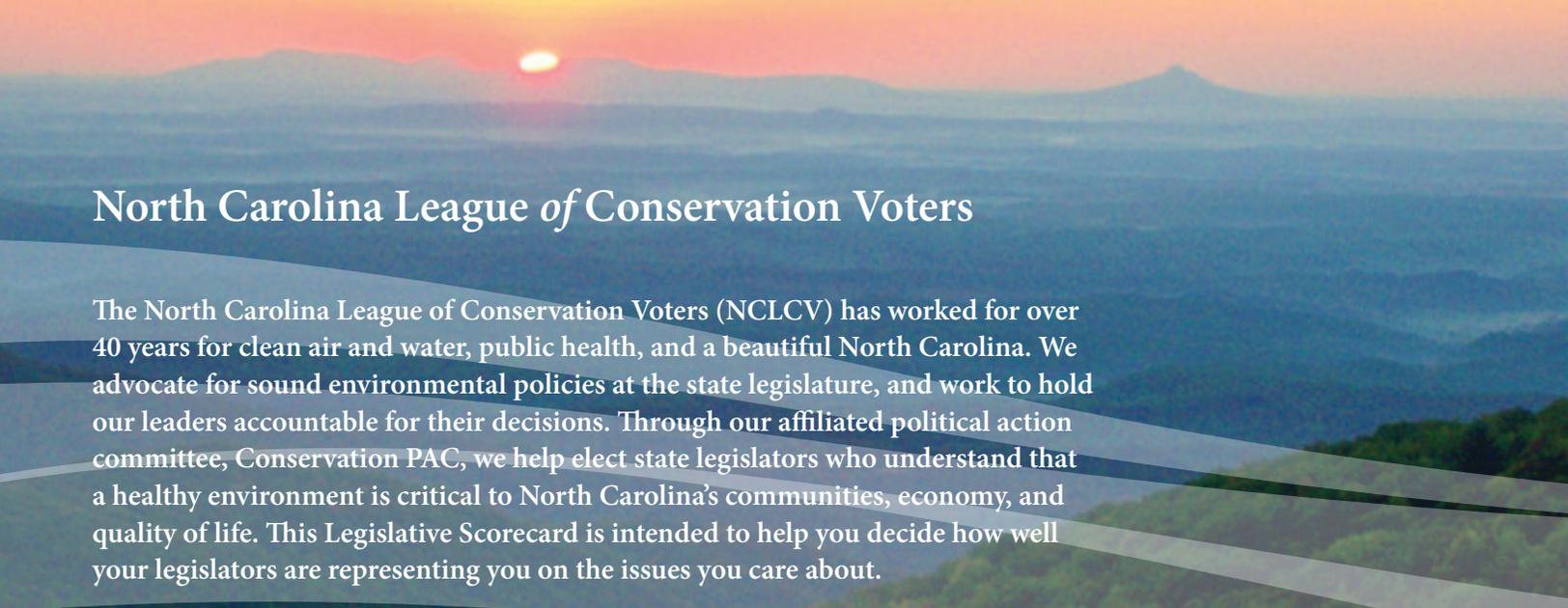


North Carolina League of Conservation Voters
LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

2013

*Turning environmental values
into North Carolina priorities.*





North Carolina League of Conservation Voters

The North Carolina League of Conservation Voters (NCLCV) has worked for over 40 years for clean air and water, public health, and a beautiful North Carolina. We advocate for sound environmental policies at the state legislature, and work to hold our leaders accountable for their decisions. Through our affiliated political action committee, Conservation PAC, we help elect state legislators who understand that a healthy environment is critical to North Carolina's communities, economy, and quality of life. This Legislative Scorecard is intended to help you decide how well your legislators are representing you on the issues you care about.

About the Scorecard

This Scorecard records members' votes on selected bills from throughout the session. While it is not a comprehensive listing of all votes, the ones recorded here have been selected as the most significant votes cast on the bills and amendments with the greatest environmental impact of the session.

However, despite the importance of legislators' votes, the Scorecard cannot represent the full complexity of what it takes to be an environmental champion. Sponsorship of legislation and leadership in support or opposition to bills can be equally important. Furthermore, no single session perfectly captures the conservation voting record of a legislator. To better evaluate individuals' voting histories, we have included a column containing their lifetime NCLCV score, which averages their scores from all sessions served between 1999 (our first Scorecard) and the present. For more information and past Scorecards, visit nclcv.org.

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A message from our president...

Dear Conservation Voter,

My name is Maria Kingery, and I am honored to serve as the new President of NCLCV. I'd like to begin by extending our entire organization's heartfelt thanks to my predecessor, Nina Szlosberg-Landis, for her amazing work and tireless passion for this organization. Under her leadership we have come far, and I am proud to continue her work – we still have much further to go.

I am excited about this opportunity to work with NCLCV because I believe that whatever our political views may be, and whether we consider ourselves environmentalists or not, we all want basically the same thing: security and the freedom to create a prosperous life. And while we may disagree about how to get there, I believe most of us understand that without clean air, clean water, and healthy land, neither are possible. Most of all, I believe that most of us truly want to do the right thing, and that with greater education, and deeper understanding, we can build a shared commitment to protecting the air, water, and land upon which we all rely.

Admittedly, we are starting from a difficult place. This year has been one of heartbreak in the environmental community. In the 2013 legislative session, our elected officials aggressively and short-sightedly rolled back regulations put in place to protect our natural resources. All of the significant environmental legislation drafted or passed this session was meant to undermine the strong protections that were enacted to ensure that North Carolina remains an exceptional place to live, visit, and do business. Therefore, this year we have another record for the number of zero scores earned by our legislators. Disheartening, indeed.

It doesn't have to be this way. North Carolina has a proud history of making balanced decisions and respecting that clean air, clean water, and beautiful landscapes are precious resources that serve a vital role in attracting people and businesses to our great state. North Carolina has been a leader in smart environmental policy in the Southeast for years, and we can be again with strong leadership from our elected officials.

We need leaders who understand that we don't have to choose between economic prosperity and our natural resources. We need leaders who understand that both are required to maintain North Carolina's exceptional quality of life. Most of all, we need leaders who are committed to making responsible decisions that honor and protect

what makes North Carolina a truly great place to live, work, and play – a thriving economy and a healthy environment.



NCLCV's Legislative Scorecard is meant to inform you about the environmental performance of our state's leaders. It is important that we hold all of our elected officials accountable, so this year we have included information on the Governor of North Carolina for the first time. Scoring an individual based on broad actions rather than individual votes presents unique challenges, but as the state's chief executive, the governor's record deserves careful attention. I am proud of the work our staff has done to create our first gubernatorial scorecard, although I am disappointed by the grade earned by Governor McCrory. We stand ready to assist the Governor, and any of our elected officials, who would seek our support in improving their performance. That, after all, is our ultimate goal: to ensure that clean air, clean water, and healthy land are a priority for our elected officials and that they make smart, informed environmental decisions.

We all have a role in educating and creating greater understanding among our elected officials. Voting and communicating with them are two of the most important things we can do to protect the environment. Please take the time to review this scorecard to see how our legislators and the governor voted and stood on environmental issues. Then call them, write letters, and stop by their district or Raleigh offices with your thoughts on their actions. Whether you are pleased or disappointed with your local officials, they need to hear your voice so that future votes will be made with conservation issues in mind.

On behalf of everyone involved with NCLCV, and on behalf of the environment we work so hard to protect, I thank you for your support. Please share this report with others, and remember: who we elect matters.

With hope for the future,

Maria Kingery
Maria Kingery

The 2013 Long Session: The Big Picture

The 2013 legislative session was a challenging time for the environment, which saw a constant onslaught of bad bills from both the House and the Senate. In previous years, many pro-conservation bills have been put forward, but during this session the environment was continuously on defense. NCLCV admires the fortitude of the pro-conservation legislators who fervently battled these environmentally destructive pieces of legislation.

Anti-Regulatory Agenda

A common theme in the 2013 General Assembly was an aggressive attack on the existing programs and rules that have protected North Carolina's environment and public health. Historically, North Carolina's responsible approach to environmental regulation has both constrained polluters and put North Carolina at the top of 'best places to do business' rankings. In 2013, numerous bills were introduced that threaten our public health and environment by weakening or removing crucial pollution control rules. In addition, critical oversight commissions and boards have been dissolved or restructured in unprecedented ways, allowing the current administration to remove the experienced members from those boards who have made them effective. These oversight commissions have historically been comprised of diverse members from the technical and scientific community, business and industry, and local government to ensure a balanced approach to environmental protection. By removing that balance, the General Assembly is threatening both our economy and the quality of life for future generations. In fact, these rollbacks are already having an effect: a recent CNBC ranking has dropped North Carolina from 4th to 12th in the overall rankings for "America's Top States for Business," with the score dragging us down being our Quality of Life.

The Rush to Frack

Last year, the legislature authorized the Mining and Energy Commission (MEC) to develop a regulatory program for oil and gas development which includes the use of hydraulic fracturing (also known as fracking). This process uses horizontal drilling to inject highly pressurized water and chemicals underground to create fractures in the rock that allow for the extraction of natural gas. This year's General Assembly seemed to be in an irrational rush to allow fracking to occur: Multiple bills were introduced to

allow permits to be issued even before the rules regulating the process are completed. Legislators also attempted to bar the MEC from exercising some of its regulatory authority, such as setting rules governing the disclosure of fracking chemicals, and instead to set those rules themselves.

During the last hours of session, some in the General Assembly made a last-ditch effort to further encourage fracking at the expense of the environment by adding sections to an unrelated bill, SB 127, "Economic Development Modifications." The new provisions in SB 127 would have forced the MEC to make fracking rules before October 1, 2014, whether or not that gave them enough time to fully study the issues and decide upon a reasonable conclusion. The bill would also have allowed fracking permits to be issued beginning on July 1, 2015 without the need for prior legislative approval. The final change in this bill would set severance tax rates on fracking but forbid local governments from levying their own similar taxes. (Severance taxes are imposed when resources are taken from the ground and moved out of the area; by forbidding local governments from levying these taxes, the General Assembly would allow certain counties and regions to be stripped of some of their most valuable natural resources without receiving compensation.) Fortunately, House members opposed SB 127 and it did not pass this session, but it is likely that this bill will be resurrected in 2014. There are many uncertainties and risks involved with fracking, and the reserves of natural gas in North Carolina are likely small. By rushing into fracking, the legislature is risking our natural resources and public health for potentially limited economic benefit.

Ignoring Science

The General Assembly has long used non-partisan science, based on the consensus of people educated in the field, as a

vital tool to craft environmental policy. For some reason, however, many legislators are ignoring well-established scientific evidence and drafting bills based purely on ideology that often contradicts significant scientific findings. After an embarrassing 2012 session that created a four-year moratorium on any action to establish a state standard for sea-level rise, the legislature continues to ignore this severe threat to North Carolina's coastal environment and economy. Another example of the legislature ignoring science is the attempt to repeal the Jordan Lake water quality rules, which were established through an extensive, science-backed stakeholder development process. These rules are crucial to the quality of Jordan Lake, an important drinking water and recreational resource for many North Carolinians. Science is an invaluable tool, and should be an integral part in environmental policymaking.

Underfunding Natural Resources

Every two years the legislature passes a budget that allocates money to many important programs. This year, many of the state's environmental programs have been drastically altered or underfunded. Programs affected include the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, the Wildlife Resource Commission, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. As an added slap-in-the-face to many conservation-minded North Carolinians, the budget also imposes an extra \$100 fee to the annual registration fees on electric vehicles.

While the recession has kept our economy from growing and budgets are necessarily tighter, the General Assembly has aggressively undermined the infrastructure of environmental protection in North Carolina, often pitting environmental regulations against the economy. As continued rollbacks of environmental protections and dismantling of state agencies responsible for holding polluters accountable play out, the result will almost certainly be a damaged environment, lower quality of life, impaired public health, weakened economies, and fewer businesses locating here. Whether it's less tourism because we are drilling off the coast, depleted and polluted drinking water supplies from fracking or rolling back pollution reductions, or fewer breweries or bio-tech companies locating here because our water is not clean enough and our quality of life is lower: North Carolina has a lot to lose.



Voting Against North Carolina

In a poll released by the Natural Resources Defense Council on July 15, 2013, North Carolinians overwhelmingly opposed fracking, weakening landfill regulations and allowing out-of-state garbage to come into the state, and overturning pollution limits upstream of Jordan Lake. In fact, more than 75% of North Carolinians say that current environmental standards are either "about right" or "too weak," as opposed to the only 13% that say they are "too strong." Lawmakers this session have attempted or succeeded in doing all of these things, raising the question of who they really represent. Over 70% of North Carolinians say they would have serious concerns about a legislator doing precisely what this General Assembly has done.



The Positive Side

Despite an overall agenda designed to roll back the state's environmental policies and funding, NCLCV and a host of allies were able to achieve a significant win this session: protecting our renewable energy portfolio standard. This will allow North Carolina to continue to grow our economy and maintain a strong foothold for clean renewable energy in our state.

Defeating the repeal of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard

The defeat of HB 298 and its Senate counterpart, SB 365, was a great example of the General Assembly making an environmentally friendly decision by supporting clean energy. These bills would have repealed the state's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (REPS), which requires utilities to generate at least 12.5% of their electricity from renewable sources by 2021. The rationale given by proponents of the legislation, that renewable energy has a negative economic impact, completely ignored the facts on the ground. Apart from bringing clean energy to our state, the REPS has also contributed approximately \$1.7 billion in development to North Carolina, and created over 20,000 jobs. The REPS has also led to lower costs for consumers, as utilities avoid building new, costly, and dirty power plants. Fortunately for the environment and for the

state, the REPS program survived the 2013 session thanks to a bipartisan group effort, and will continue to bring positive impacts to the state.

Degradable Plastic Labeling

In order to minimize the risk of degradable products negatively impacting traditional plastic recycling, HB 315 requires degradable plastics to be clearly labeled. These products are designed to decompose over time, and can harm the quality and integrity of recycled products. North Carolina has a growing recycled plastics industry which brings added environmental benefits, such as less waste being dumped in landfills. This new law will allow for degradable products to properly decompose over time, and for the recycled plastic industry to continue to expand without threatening the quality of their products.

Many anti-conservation bills may still be active during next year's short session, and NCLCV will continue to fight against them if and when they resurface. With your help, future General Assemblies will begin to think more about the future of North Carolina's natural resources, and legislators will start making better decisions for the our environment.

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

The bill descriptions are based on the text of the legislation at the time the scored vote was cast. Subsequent amendments or changes in content in many cases have altered the substance of the bills, but we believe it is appropriate to describe exactly what the legislators were proposing and voting on at the time, rather than any changes which occurred after.

HOUSE VOTES

[H1] HB 201 3rd Reading (Reinstate 2009 Energy Conservation Codes)

As introduced, this bill would have repealed the 2012 Energy Conservation Codes for both the commercial and residential sectors, and reinstated the weaker 2009 standards. Fortunately, the residential sector was eliminated from this bill in committee; however, the commercial provision remained. Improving energy conservation and efficiency in building construction is one of the easiest ways to lessen our environmental impacts and reduce energy consumption, especially in North Carolina, where coal produces a significant amount of our electricity. Unfortunately, this bill passed the House, although it has not yet been heard in the Senate. *Pro-conservation vote: NO.*

[H2] HB 1011 2nd Reading (Government Reorg. and Efficiency Act)

In response to SB 10 failing in its first conference committee, the House passed its own similar bill in the form of House Bill 1011. Almost all of the negative environmental aspects of SB 10 remain, including the elimination and restructuring of many boards and commissions. Environmental boards negatively impacted include the Environmental Management Commission, the Coastal Resources Commission, and the Coastal Resources Advisory Council. This bill passed the House but was not heard in the Senate this session. Unfortunately, the Budget that passed included provisions removing current members with local and technical expertise, and years of experience, from the EMC, and the CRC. *Pro-conservation vote: NO.*

[H3] SB 10 3rd Reading (Government Reorganization and Efficiency Act)

The House version of SB 10 had many of the same effects as the Senate version, such as eliminating several programs and restructuring various state commissions and boards. While the House version affects several new boards, they are not environmentally related. The House bill also lessened the effect of some of the restructuring, such as by allowing the Environmental Management Commission to have 15 members rather than the 13 in the original

Senate version. However this is still fewer than the 19 that currently sit on the commission. The members of these commissions would also have slightly stricter qualifications than the Senate proposed, and some of the conflict of interest provisions would be added back in. The overall effect of the bill, however, would still be negative: It would eliminate the balance between environmental expertise, local representation, and business interests previously established on these commissions, prioritizing business and industry in managing the environment. The bill passed the House, but the conference report compromise failed. *Pro-conservation vote: NO.*

[H4] SB 76 3rd Reading (Domestic Energy Jobs Act)

The House's "Domestic Energy Jobs Act" removed several of the troubling provisions in the original Senate version. For example, the House version no longer authorizes underground injection of wastewater, removes the prohibition of local governments from taxing any aspect of the oil and gas extraction, and leaves several important members on the Mining and Energy Commission in place. While we appreciated these moves, the bill itself still endangers the health and environment of North Carolina. With such a small amount of natural gas reserves, any potential jobs would likely be short-term and would likely be filled by experienced out-of-state workers. This bill rushes fracking and ignores future impacts. The bill also promotes off-shore drilling, which would have negative impacts on North Carolina's established tourism industry. The House passed this version of the bill, and ultimately the House and the Senate agreed to a version that will leave North Carolina vulnerable to the negative impacts of fracking. *Pro-conservation vote: NO.*

[H5] SB 76 House Amendment 1

This proposed amendment, drafted by Representative Harrison, would have prohibited the issuance of permits for oil and gas exploration and development until the US EPA determined that hydraulic fracturing treatments have not contaminated drinking water in states that currently allow fracking. One of the more controversial aspects of fracking is whether or not the fracking fluid, which contains

many harmful chemicals, can migrate into drinking water sources. This proactive amendment would have allowed for more scientific research to occur on this subject before fracking could occur within North Carolina, but unfortunately it failed. *Pro-conservation vote: YES.*

[H6] SB 112 2nd Reading (Create Jobs Through Regulatory Reform)

As originally introduced in the Senate, this bill was only three pages long and was called “Amend Environmental Laws 2013.” The House amended the bill into a 27-page omnibus piece of legislation under the new name of “Create Jobs Through Regulatory Reform.” Two of the new provisions included were of particular concern to the environmental community. First, the modified bill includes provisions from HB 74 that require the periodic review and expiration of existing rules. Any rule not reviewed during a ten year period would expire, which places an extraordinary burden on agencies, the Rules Review Commission, the regulated public, and other stakeholders. Second, the new version of the bill contains language originally found in SB 612 relating to local government preemption. Current law allows cities and counties to impose stricter environmental, health, or zoning regulations than the state or federal government. Under the proposed change, however, the local governments would be stripped of their power to enact stronger protections that better reflect local interests and unique natural resources. This bill passed the House, but has not been heard in its modified form in the Senate. *Pro-conservation vote: NO.*

[H7] SB 112 House Amendment 10 Motion to Table

Amendment 10, by Representative Duane Hall, would have removed one of the most troubling provisions of SB 112 regarding local government preemption. The section bars the passage or enforcement of nearly all local environmental ordinances or rules that are stronger than minimum state or federal standards. The amendment would have allowed local governments to continue to set stronger local rules, but it was tabled (set aside without being considered) and not made a part of the bill. This score, on the vote not to consider a pro-conservation amendment, is included to emphasize how stridently legislators oppose environmental regulations. The motion passed, and the House did not vote on the pro-conservation amendment. *Pro-conservation vote: NO.*

[H8] SB 515 2nd Reading (Jordan Lake Water Quality Act)

In 2009, a carefully negotiated agreement between local governments, developers, environmentalists, and others was approved to set pollution-control rules for Jordan

Lake, the drinking water supply for over 300,000 residents. The House version of Senate Bill 515 delays the implementation of a number of these regulations regarding Jordan Lake and upstream contamination by three years. The bill also exempts certain utilities and airport facilities from being subject to riparian buffer rules. Riparian buffers are vegetative land bordering water that stabilize the soil and filter pollutants. DENR has said the preserving these buffers “is critical to protecting our water resources.” Ultimately, SB 515 passed, ignoring years of stakeholder and public input, and once again delaying critical pollution control efforts, ensuring that we will spend more money to clean up three years’ worth of additional pollution. *Pro-conservation vote: NO.*

[H9] HB 74 Conference Report 2nd Reading (Regulatory Reform Act of 2013)

After some disagreement between the House and Senate as to just what this bill should contain, they appointed a conference committee to draft a final version, which was voted on in both chambers. The resulting legislation brings together a number of anti-conservation provisions found in other bills, including: allowing state regulations to expire if they do not undergo a costly and time-consuming review process every ten years; prohibiting local governments from making environmental laws stricter than those the state and federal governments impose unless adopted by a unanimous vote (an especially large issue for coastal areas which need stricter regulations to prevent erosion and damage to private property); removing or weakening many of the existing safeguards regarding landfills; and repealing the Mountain Resources Planning Act. This bill passed, putting many aspects of our environment and public health at risk. *Pro-conservation vote: NO.*

SENATE VOTES

[S1] HB 74 Conference Report 2nd Reading (Regulatory Reform Act of 2013)

See H9 description in the House Votes section. *Pro-conservation vote: NO.*

[S2] SB10 2nd Reading (Government Reorganization and Efficiency Act)

This bill would eliminate and reorganize many different state commissions and boards, including several with environmental focuses. It would eliminate the Natural Heritage Area Designation Commission, the Sustainable Local Food Advisory Council, and the Legislative Commission on Global Climate Change. More importantly, it would reduce the number of members, some of the qualifications

HOW TO READ THE SCORECARD

Nine House and ten Senate votes were scored. We included floor votes, motions, and amendments on particularly important bills. It is important to note which version of the bill was scored: Second readings are often more reflective than the third and final reading because members may vote their preference on second reading, but vote with the majority on third, when it is clear what the outcome will be. At the top of the Scorecard tables, you will see a number that correlates with the bill description. Legislators are listed

alphabetically, with their votes during the 2013 session, their 2013 score, previous averages, and “lifetime” scores. “Lifetime Scores” start in 1999, when our first Legislative Scorecard was published. A “+” is a pro-conservation vote, a “-” is an anti-conservation vote, NV indicates a missed vote, which is counted as an anti-conservation vote. Excused absences and votes (E) are not scored. INC indicates members did not cast enough votes to score. N/A means no previous voting record.

House	Party	District	County	H1	H2	H3	H4	H5	H6	H7	H8	H9	2013 Long Session	2011-2012 Average	2009-2010 Average	Lifetime Score
Pro Environmental Vote:				No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No				
Adams	D	58	Guilford	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	91	79	84
Alexander	D	107	Mecklenburg	+	+	NV	+	+	+	-	+	+	78	68	92	81
Arp	R	69	Union	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	NA	NA	0
Avila	R	40	Wake	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	9	31	24
Baskerville	D	32	Granville	+	+	+	E	E	+	+	+	+	100	NA	NA	100
Bell, J.	R	10	Craven	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	NA	NA	0
Bell, L.	D	21	Duplin	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	78	83	84	74
Blackwell	R	86	Burke	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	22	18	36	23
Blust	R	62	Guilford	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	13	45	39
Boles, Jr.	R	52	Moore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	9	45	17
Brandon, Jr.	D	60	Guilford	+	E	+	+	+	-	+	NV	-	63	70	NA	68
Brawley, C.R.	R	95	Iredell	-	-	-	E	E	-	-	-	-	0	NA	NA	0
Brawley, Jr., W.	R	103	Mecklenburg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	13	NA	9
Brisson	D	22	Bladen	-	E	+	-	-	-	-	E	NV	14	17	77	41
Brody	R	55	Anson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	NA	NA	0
Brown, B.	R	9	Pitt	-	-	E	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	NA	NA	0
Brown, R.	R	81	Davidson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	11	18	NA	13
Bryan	R	88	Mecklenburg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	NA	NA	0
Bumgardner	R	109	Gaston	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	NA	NA	0
Burr	R	67	Montgomery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	9	47	19
Carney	D	102	Mecklenburg	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	78	78	90	81
Catlin	R	20	New Hanover	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	NA	NA	11
Cleveland	R	14	Onslow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	E	E	0	13	45	33
Collins	R	25	Franklin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	14	NA	6
Conrad	R	74	Forsyth	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	11	NA	NA	11
Cotham	D	100	Mecklenburg	-	E	+	E	E	-	+	-	+	50	91	95	84
Cunningham	D	106	Mecklenburg	+	+	+	E	E	+	+	+	+	100	NA	NA	100
Daughtry	R	26	Johnston	-	-	-	-	-	E	E	-	-	0	13	69	40
Davis, Jr.	R	19	New Hanover	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	11	NA	NA	11
Dixon	R	4	Duplin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	13	NA	9
Dobson	R	85	Avery	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	NA	NA	11
Dollar	R	36	Wake	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	11	13	64	43
Earle	D	101	Mecklenburg	+	+	E	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	83	64	78
Elmore	R	94	Alleghany	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	NA	NA	0
Faircloth, Jr.	R	61	Guilford	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	9	NA	6
Farmer-Butterfield	D	24	Pitt	+	+	+	E	+	+	+	+	+	100	82	84	85
Fisher	D	114	Buncombe	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	92	100	94
Floyd	D	43	Cumberland	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	56	87	89	81

House	Party	District	County	H1	H2	H3	H4	H5	H6	H7	H8	H9	2013 Long Session	2011-2012 Average	2009-2010 Average	Lifetime Score
Ford	R	76	Cabarrus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	NA	NA	0
Foushee	D	50	Durham	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	NA	NA	100
Fulghum	R	49	Wake	-	-	-	E	E	-	-	-	-	0	NA	NA	0
Gill	D	33	Wake	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	92	100	93
Glazier	D	44	Cumberland	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	96	100	96
Goodman	D	66	Hoke	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	44	79	NA	69
Graham, C.	D	47	Robeson	+	+	+	+	+	E	E	+	+	100	87	NA	90
Graham, G.	D	12	Craven	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	NA	NA	100
Hager	R	112	Burke	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	13	NA	9
Hall, D.	D	11	Wake	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	NA	NA	100
Hall, L.	D	29	Durham	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	96	100	97
Hamilton	D	18	Brunswick	+	+	+	E	E	-	+	-	E	67	67	NA	69
Hanes, Jr.	D	72	Forsyth	+	+	+	E	E	+	+	-	+	86	NA	NA	86
Hardister	R	59	Guilford	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	NA	NA	0
Harrison	D	57	Guilford	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	100	100	100
Hastings	R	110	Cleveland	-	-	-	E	E	-	-	-	-	0	9	NA	7
Holley	D	38	Wake	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	NA	NA	100
Hollo	R	73	Alexander	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	13	NA	30
Holloway	R	91	Rockingham	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	22	27	36	36
Horn	R	68	Union	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	13	NA	9
Howard	R	79	Davie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	E	-	0	14	50	47
Hurley	R	70	Randolph	-	-	-	E	-	-	-	-	-	0	13	62	35
Iler	R	17	Brunswick	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	E	0	9	54	19
Insko	D	56	Orange	+	+	+	+	+	E	E	+	+	100	96	100	97
Jackson	D	39	Wake	-	E	+	+	E	+	+	+	+	86	86	86	86
Jeter	R	92	Mecklenburg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	11	NA	NA	11
Johnson	R	83	Cabarrus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	13	64	46
Jones, Jr.	R	65	Caswell	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	13	NA	9
Jordan	R	93	Ashe	-	-	-	E	E	-	-	-	-	0	18	NA	13
Lambeth	R	75	Forsyth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	E	-	0	NA	NA	0
Langdon, Jr.	R	28	Johnston	E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	E	0	17	45	34
Lewis	R	53	Harnett	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	9	45	38
Lucas	D	42	Cumberland	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	78	87	77	77
Luebke	D	30	Durham	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	96	100	99
Malone	R	35	Wake	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	E	0	NA	NA	0
Martin, G.	D	34	Wake	NA	NA	NA	+	E	E	E	+	+	100	96	100	96
Martin, S.	R	8	Pitt	-	-	-	-	-	E	E	-	-	0	NA	NA	0
McElraft	R	13	Carteret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	9	53	28
McGrady	R	117	Henderson	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	78	75	NA	75
McManus	D	54	Chatham	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	NA	NA	100
McNeill	R	78	Moore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	NA	NA	0
Michaux, Jr.	D	31	Durham	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	83	73	81
Millis	R	16	Onslow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	9	45	0
Mobley	D	5	Bertie	E	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	92	81	85
Moffitt	R	116	Buncombe	-	-	-	E	-	-	-	-	-	0	13	NA	10
Moore, R.	D	99	Mecklenburg	+	E	+	E	E	-	+	-	+	67	73	NA	72
Moore, T.	R	111	Cleveland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	9	36	33
Murry	R	41	Wake	-	-	-	E	E	-	-	E	+	17	20	NA	19

House	Party	District	County	H1	H2	H3	H4	H5	H6	H7	H8	H9	2013 Long Session	2011-2012 Average	2009-2010 Average	Lifetime Score
Pierce	D	48	Hoke	+	+	+	+	+	E	E	+	+	100	92	79	81
Pittman	R	82	Cabarrus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	11	0	NA	5
Presnell	R	118	Haywood	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	NA	NA	0
Queen	D	119	Haywood	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	89	NA	76	82
Ramsey	R	115	Buncombe	-	E	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	NA	NA	13
Richardson	D	7	Franklin	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	NA	NA	100
Riddell	R	64	Alamance	E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	NA	NA	0
Ross, S.	R	63	Alamance	-	E	-	E	E	-	-	-	-	0	NA	NA	0
Saine	R	97	Lincoln	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	NA	0
Samuelson	R	104	Mecklenburg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	11	13	75	36
Schaffer	R	105	Mecklenburg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	NA	NA	0
Setzer	R	89	Catawba	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	11	13	36	37
Shepard	R	15	Onslow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	E	-	0	9	NA	6
Speciale	R	3	Beaufort	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	NA	NA	22
Stam	R	37	Wake	-	-	E	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	13	42	43
Starnes	R	87	Caldwell	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	13	51	35
Steinburg	R	1	Camden	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	NA	NA	0
Stevens	R	90	Surry	E	-	-	-	-	-	-	E	E	0	13	45	20
Stone	R	51	Harnett	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	9	NA	6
Szoka	R	45	Cumberland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	NA	NA	0
Terry	D	71	Forsyth	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	NA	NA	100
Tillis	R	98	Mecklenburg	NV	NV	NV	NV	-	NV	NV	-	NV	0	INC	53	26
Tine	D	6	Beaufort	-	+	+	E	E	-	+	-	+	57	NA	NA	57
Tolson	D	23	Edgecombe	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	83	75	81
Torbett	R	108	Gaston	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	13	NA	9
Turner	R	84	Iredell	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	NA	NA	0
Waddell	D	46	Bladen	-	+	+	E	E	-	+	-	+	57	NA	NA	57
Warren	R	77	Rowan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NV	0	9	NA	6
Wells	R	96	Catawba	+	-	-	E	E	-	-	-	-	14	NA	NA	14
West	R	120	Cherokee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	9	45	30
Whitmire	R	113	Henderson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	NA	NA	0
Wilkins, Jr.	D	2	Granville	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	89	70	70	72
Wray	D	27	Halifax	+	+	E	+	+	+	+	+	E	100	79	81	77
Younts	R	80	Davidson	NA	-	-	0	NA	NA	0						

Senate	Party	District	County	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	S9	S10	2013 Long Session	2011-2012 Average	2009-2010 Average	Lifetime Score
Pro Environmental Vote:				No													
Allran	R	42	Alexander	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	10	9	68	55
Apodaca	R	48	Buncombe	-	-	-	-	E	-	-	-	-	-	0	4	67	40
Barefoot	R	18	Franklin	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	NA	NA	10
Barringer	R	17	Wake	-	-	-	+	-	-	E	-	+	-	22	NA	NA	22
Berger	R	26	Guilford	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	4	45	36

+ pro-conservation vote - anti-conservation vote NV missed vote counted as anti-conservation vote
E excused absences/votes are not scored INC members did not cast enough votes to score N/A no previous voting record

Senate	Party	District	County	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	S9	S10	2013 Long Session	2011-2012 Average	2009-2010 Average	Lifetime Score
Bingham	R	33	Davidson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	E	-	0	33	82	55
Blue	D	14	Wake	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	90	80	82	84
Brock	R	34	Davie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	E	-	0	4	40	33
Brown	R	6	Jones	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	9	47	30
Brunstetter	R	31	Forsyth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	10	71	38
Bryant	D	4	Halifax	+	E	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	93	89	91
Clark	D	21	Cumberland	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	60	NA	NA	60
Clodfelter	D	37	Mecklenburg	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	E	E	75	63	83	77
Cook	R	1	Beaufort	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	10	14	NA	9
Curtis	R	44	Gaston	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	NA	NA	0
Daniel	R	46	Burke	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	10	9	NA	9
Davis, D.	D	5	Greene	+	+	+	+	-	+	E	-	+	+	78	NA	83	81
Davis, J.	R	50	Cherokee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	E	-	0	17	NA	10
Ford	D	38	Mecklenburg	+	-	-	+	+	E	-	-	+	+	56	NA	NA	56
Goolsby	R	9	New Hanover	-	-	-	-	-	NV	-	-	-	-	0	4	NA	3
Graham	D	40	Mecklenburg	E	+	E	E	+	+	+	-	+	+	86	71	82	78
Gunn	R	24	Alamance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	4	NA	3
Harrington	R	43	Gaston	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	9	NA	6
Hartsell	R	36	Cabarrus	-	E	-	-	-	-	+	-	E	-	13	19	77	61
Hise	R	47	Madison	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	10	4	NA	6
Hunt	R	15	Wake	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	30	38	68	52
Jackson	R	10	Duplin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	14	NA	9
Jenkins	D	3	Bertie	+	-	E	E	-	E	E	-	E	E	25	36	80	66
Kinnaird	D	23	Chatham	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	90	88	94	95
McKissick	D	20	Durham	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	90	65	64	75
McLaurin	D	25	Hanson	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	E	33	NA	NA	33
Meredith	R	19	Cumberland	-	-	E	E	-	+	-	-	-	-	13	23	NA	20
Nesbitt	D	49	Buncombe	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	90	69	76	77
Newton	R	11	Johnston	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	10	4	NA	6
Parmon	D	32	Forsyth	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	90	96	62	79
Pate	R	7	Lenoir	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	9	NA	36
Rabin	R	12	Harnett	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	10	NA	NA	10
Rabon	R	8	Bladen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	4	NA	3
Randleman	R	30	Stokes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	13	50	21
Robinson	D	28	Guilford	+	+	+	-	+	E	E	-	+	+	75	50	NA	57
Rucho	R	39	Mecklenburg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	8	44	33
Sanderson	R	2	Carteret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	9	NA	6
Soucek	R	45	Alleghany	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	4	NA	3
Stein	D	16	Wake	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	90	74	95	84
Tarte	R	41	Mecklenburg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	NA	NA	0
Tillman	R	29	Moore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	E	-	0	5	55	39
Tucker	R	35	Union	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	9	NA	6
Wade	R	27	Guilford	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	NA	NA	0
Walters	D	13	Columbus	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	E	E	E	29	19	63	31
Woodard	D	22	Caswell	+	+	+	+	E	+	+	-	+	+	89	NA	NA	89

+ pro-conservation vote - anti-conservation vote NV missed vote counted as anti-conservation vote
 E excused absences/votes are not scored INC members did not cast enough votes to score N/A no previous voting record

for membership, and a large amount of experience on critical programs responsible for environmental protections, including the Coastal Resources Commission, the Coastal Resources Advisory Council, the Environmental Management Commission, and the Wildlife Resources Commission. Ultimately, this bill would eliminate the balance between environmental expertise, local representation, and business interests previously established on these commissions, prioritizing business and industry in managing the environment. This bill passed both chambers in different forms, but the first conference report to resolve the differences failed in the House. Unfortunately, the Budget that passed included similar provisions removing from the EMC and CRC current members with local and technical expertise, and years of experience. *Pro-conservation vote: NO.*

[S3] SB 76 2nd Reading (Domestic Energy Jobs Act)

Although fracking has technically been legal in North Carolina for about a year, there has been a hold on permitting companies to engage in the environmentally destructive practice. This moratorium was put in place to allow the Mining and Energy Commission to develop a regulatory scheme for the process. This version of Senate Bill 76 would have allowed permits to be issued beginning on March 1, 2015, leaving only five months for the regulatory rules to be analyzed and modified after they are first released. This bill would have made other changes to the regulatory scheme set up in 2012, including removing the State Geologist from the Mining and Energy Commission, lifting the cap on the amount of fracking that may occur so that it is no longer limited by North Carolina's energy needs, and allowing the underground injection of fracking wastewater, which could contaminate drinking water supplies. While the Senate passed this very damaging version of SB 76, the House improved upon it. The final bill that passed, however, still does not do enough to protect our state from the damaging impacts of fracking. *Pro-conservation vote: NO.*

[S4] SB 151 2nd Reading (Coastal Policy Reform Act of 2013)

The most important and damaging provision of Senate Bill 151 is the section that would have removed a number of the current limitations on terminal groins: large barriers erected on barrier islands in order to prevent sand from eroding and shrinking the beach. A pilot program for terminal groins was set up in 2011, allowing for four permits to be granted with strict funding, necessity, and insurance requirements. This bill would have removed all of these limitations, before even one of the initial four in the pilot program has been completed. Under this legislation, there

would be no limit to the number of permits that can be issued; no requirement that funding come from voter-approved sources; no requirement that funding be secured for long-term maintenance of the groin or the restoration of damaged private property or the environment; and no requirement that the groin be necessary to stop imminent erosion that other, less harmful, methods cannot mitigate. Although the House made improvements to the Senate version, this anti-conservation bill did eventually pass. *Pro-conservation vote: NO.*

[S5] SB 515 2nd Reading (Jordan Lake Water Quality Act)

The Senate version of Senate Bill 515 would have repealed all current rules and statutes pertaining to upstream pollution control of Jordan Lake and created a subcommittee consisting entirely of Senators and Representatives to recommend legislation and rules focused on treating Jordan Lake itself, rather than on reducing upstream pollution before it enters the Lake. This legislation had three extremely problematic flaws. The first would be the sudden repeal of rules and regulations with no replacement rules ready to take effect. The subcommittee would not be required to report until sometime during the 2014 legislative session, which would potentially leave Jordan Lake entirely unregulated for more than a year. Second, the subcommittee would consist entirely of elected officials rather than scientists or others with technical expertise. When dealing with environmental issues, scientific expertise should be reflected on the committee itself, rather than relying on outside sources for all technical expertise. Third, the requirement that the recommendations consider treating Jordan Lake directly rather than limiting upstream pollution would simply perpetuate the problem. Without preventing upstream pollution from flowing into Jordan Lake, clean-up of the Lake would likely have to continue indefinitely. Allowing scientists to develop new proposals dealing with upstream contamination, while keeping the current rules in place until the new ones are ready to be implemented, is a much safer and environmentally-friendly path to follow. While this damaging Senate version did not pass the House, a version delaying clean-up of Jordan Lake did (see H8 in House Vote Description). *Pro-conservation vote: NO.*

[S6] SB 612 2nd Reading (Regulatory Reform Act of 2013)

Senate Bill 612 would modify a number of sections of existing law, all dealing with environmental issues. Significant changes would include prohibiting cities and counties from imposing stricter environmental regulations than the state or the Federal Government have set, and

setting up a “fast-track” approval process for stormwater management system permits and erosion and sedimentation control plans. The first change would create uniform environmental regulations across the state, but at the lowest common denominator. No longer would local residents be able to protect their natural resources as they see fit—they could only do so to the extent that the General Assembly or Congress allows in the entire state or country. The second change would prohibit employees of plan reviewing agencies from requiring modifications to any proposal involving engineering if the proposal was filed by a professional engineer and the employee does not have that level of specialized training. This section allows engineers filing for permits a high level of impunity and lessens the usefulness and scope of the review process. This bill passed the Senate, but was not heard in the House, though many of its damaging components were added to other bills. *Pro-conservation vote: NO.*

[S7] SB 328 2nd Reading (Solid Waste Management Reform Act of 2013)

Even though North Carolina has enough landfill capacity for decades to come, the Solid Waste Management Reform Act of 2013 seeks to create more landfills within the state. This bill would encourage local governments to import trash from out of state sources, which could cause North Carolina to become the entire nation’s dumping ground for solid waste. The bill would also remove the minimum financial assurance required to cover potential damage from these landfills. The legislation would drastically reduce or eliminate the buffer zone required between landfills and many types of critical natural areas, such as state parks, scenic rivers, and wildlife refuges. It also would eliminate the ability of DENR to deny permits if the solid waste facilities would damage these areas and would drastically weaken regulations regarding environmental review and toxic leachate discharge. This bill would have profound negative impacts on the state North Carolina. This bill passed the Senate, but was not heard in the House; however, many of the damaging provisions were unfortunately inserted into HB 74, which passed both chambers (see House Vote Descriptions). *Pro-conservation vote: NO.*

[S8] HB 94 2nd Reading (Amend Environmental Laws 2013)

This bill was originally four pages long when it made its way through the House, but the Senate increased it to 43 pages and put in a slew of worrisome new provisions. In particular, fracking companies would not be required to alert DENR to the chemicals they pump into the ground, instead claiming “trade secret” protection for this poten-

tially dangerous mixture. The bill would also cause major damage to North Carolina’s surface waters, as some of the new language called for the repeal of protective buffer rules. Groundwater, too, would be in danger of contamination, due to the elimination of the current 500 foot buffer required around waste disposal systems. House Bill 94 would be destructive to North Carolinians’ private property and dangerous to our health, rolling back a number of the sound environmental policies that we’ve fought for over the years. This bill passed in the Senate and was not heard in the House in its modified form. *Pro-conservation vote: NO.*

[S9] SB 32 2nd Reading (Periodic Review and Expiration of Rules)

Senate Bill 32 would cause each and every “permanent” regulatory rule to expire after ten years. Agencies would be required to go through the full elaborate rule-making process annually for every rule set to expire that year, a process that takes both time and money. Some rules may even slip through the bureaucratic cracks, causing important regulations to lapse even though the agency and the voters agree they should be in place. This legislation would be a long-game play to eliminate beneficial regulatory structures protecting our water, air, and mountains. This bill did not receive a final vote in the Senate. *Pro-conservation vote: NO.*

[S10] HB 938 2nd Reading (Clarify Wetland Permitting)

A number of times throughout the session, legislators targeted wetlands by attempting to exempt them from many environmental regulations. On the last day of session this trend continued, as the Senate rolled out and passed a new version of House Bill 938. This bill would exempt wetlands that “are not waters of the United States” from water quality permit requirements. This equivocal language would have a tremendous impact on North Carolina’s wetlands, as many of them are isolated and would not be considered “waters of the United States.” These water bodies provide essential functions that benefit both people and nature, by doing things such as filtering water and helping control floods. By compromising the integrity of these wetlands, we could severely alter the natural processes in our beautiful state. This bill passed the Senate, but thankfully did not come to a vote in the House this session. *Pro-conservation vote: NO.*



Growing Polarization by the Numbers

Our scorecard analysis of the 2013 session revealed the continuing trend of polarized voting on environmental issues. This year the score gap between Republican and Democratic averages was at an all-time high. The Senate had a gap of 69% between party averages, while the House had a gap of 83%. As recently as 2007 and 2008, these numbers were only around 20%, but they have skyrocketed since.

The other continuing trend that can be seen in the 2013 scorecard is a drop in average scores. While we applaud the 28 members who earned a perfect score, over 52% could not even muster a 10%. Over the past four years, our averages have been cut in half. It is easy to be overwhelmed by these numbers, but we have a chance to improve them, as elections are right around the corner. Please do your part, and vote for future members that will support North Carolina's natural resources.

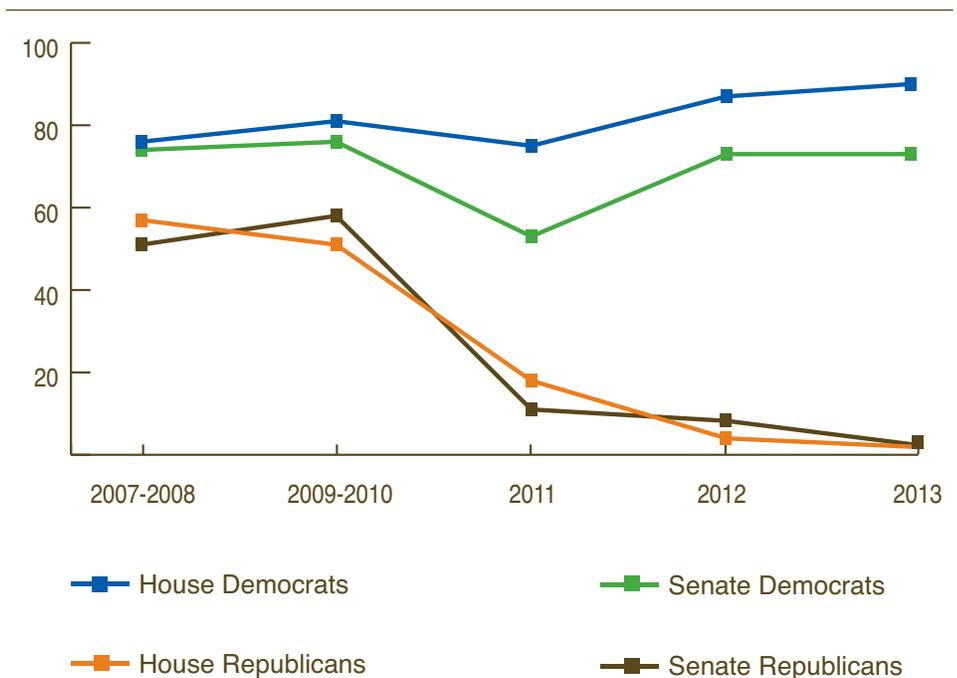
Key Numbers

Number of Representatives: 120
 Number of Senators: 50
 10% and Below: 52%
 90% and Above: 16%
 Total Zeros: 82
 Total Hundreds: 27

AVERAGE PARTY SCORES

	2007-2008 Average	2009-2010 Average	2011 Long Session	2012 Short Session	2013 Long Session
House					
Republicans	57%	51%	18%	7%	4%
Democrats	76%	81%	75%	86%	87%
Total House	67%	67%	43%	42%	34%
Senate					
Republicans	51%	58%	11%	12%	4%
Democrats	74%	76%	53%	73%	73%
Total Senate	66%	69%	27%	35%	28%

AVERAGE SCORES OVER TIME



Governor McCrory's Early Term Progress Report

While Pat McCrory has only been Governor for less than a year, his actions already leave us concerned for the future of North Carolina's natural resources, economy, and public health. Governor McCrory's positions on conservation-related legislation have been mixed. However, both his administrative appointments and proposed budget indicate indifference to the environment at best, and outright hostility at worst.

The Governor does not vote on specific legislation. His grades are based on what bills he has signed into law, what he has spoken about in public, and other executive actions he has taken.

Governor McCrory has much room to improve his positions on conservation issues and move North Carolina in a positive direction. We encourage Governor McCrory to rethink his energy platform and to focus more on proven clean and renewable technologies, to carefully review all legislation which would affect the health and beauty of our natural resources, and to understand that a strong economy and natural resource protection go hand in hand. The grades we give today are indicative of the Governor's performance thus far. We hope to see more positive results in the future.

Overall Grade

Grade: D-

Clean Air and Energy

Grade: C

Entering office promising an "all of the above" energy platform, Governor McCrory has kept his word. He has publicly supported renewable energy such as offshore wind and solar, declared June to be solar energy month, and attended the ribbon cutting event of a new biomass production facility. With five major clean energy projects primarily focusing on solar technology, North Carolina was ranked 4th for clean energy jobs by Environmental Entrepreneurs during the first quarter of 2013. McCrory also signed HB 484 into law, which establishes a permitting program for the siting and operation of wind power.

While we appreciate the governor's support of clean energy, we cannot ignore the fact that he also supports expanded reliance on coal, hydraulic fracturing, and offshore drilling. These practices could threaten North Carolina's precious water and air resources, our exceptional tourism industry, and our leading role in the renewable energy sector.

At the end of the 2013 session, the Governor signed SB 76 into law, which promotes fracking and the exploration of offshore oil. North Carolina's coast has always been a popular tourist destination, but now could be threatened by oil tankers, platforms, and spills. As Governor McCrory continues to serve the state, we hope that he turns more attention toward

clean energy instead of dirty fossil fuels. June may have been "solar energy month," but McCrory's other actions demonstrate his willingness to let 2013 be "dirty energy year."

Budget

Grade Range: F

With cuts to many important programs, Governor McCrory's proposed budget completely ignored the need to protect and conserve North Carolina's natural resources. The Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF), which had an authorized funding level of \$100 million annually at its peak, was set at only \$6.75 million for 2013-2014 and zeroed out thereafter. Money in the CWMTF has, in the past, been used to improve key water quality functions, such as land acquisition near important drinking water sources and local water and sewer upgrades. While the final budget that was signed into law allocated \$10.4 million to the CWMTF for 2013-2014, this is still far from where it should be.

Other programs that received significant budget reductions under the Governor's proposed budget were the Natural Heritage Trust Fund, the Biofuels Center, and the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has had its budget slashed by 40% compared to 2009 levels, and 24 vacant positions in the Department of Agriculture and 26 vacant positions in the Wildlife Resources Commission will be eliminated rather than be filled by people devoted to protecting the environment.

These are just a few of the assaults on North Carolina's critical natural resource programs that Governor McCrory's proposed budget would have brought. Unfortunately, the budget that was signed into law had a similar theme and underfunded many key environmental programs.

Water Resources

Grade: D

Governor McCrory's first term began on a high note in terms of water resource management with the signing of HB 396, the "Private Well Water Education Act." This law directs the Commission for Public Health to adopt rules governing the sampling and testing of existing private wells. It also requires local health departments to provide information about drinking water standards and types of water quality testing to citizens constructing new drinking water wells. Unfortunately, water-related legislation ran downhill from there.

As the session wrapped up, the General Assembly rushed through several bills that will have negative impacts on North Carolina's water, and Governor McCrory signed them all into law. SB 515, "Jordan Lake Water Quality Act," delays crucial rules that were developed to improve the water quality of Jordan Lake, as well as weakens several riparian buffer rules.



Instead of relying on these carefully crafted rules, the budget earmarks over \$1.65 million to an unproven technology that is only intended for small water impoundments, and focuses on cleaning up pollution rather than pollution prevention. This bill threatens the quality of drinking water that supplies hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians.

The General Assembly also sent SB 151 to the Governor, which encourages environmentally destructive terminal groins on the coast, and HB 74, which threatens the quality of our groundwater by allowing contamination to occur within a wider compliance boundary from contaminated sites. Finally, the Governor's proposed budget slashed the funding of several water related programs, and his support of expanded fossil fuels use threatens the quality of water across the entire state.

Appointments

Grade: F

Governor McCrory's administrative appointments include a number of controversial and questionable choices, but most importantly his appointment of John Skvarla as Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

DENR, as the state agency responsible for protecting North Carolina's environment and natural resources, should be led by a proven leader of strong environmental values, but Secretary Skvarla is proving himself to be irresponsible in that role. One of Skvarla's first acts as Secretary was to rewrite the mission statement of DENR, fundamentally changing its role. DENR was previously 'conserving and protecting North Carolina's natural resources and maintaining a healthy environment that benefits the health and well-being of North Carolinians.' Under Skvarla and Governor McCrory, DENR's new mission is about "customer service" for the regulated industry. The mission also prioritizes "cost-benefit analysis" which rarely adequately values the long-term benefits of environmental systems, and emphasizes that DENR's decisions should reflect science that contains a diversity of opinion—essentially revising the very definition of science based in knowledge and experimentation, to "opinion" and "perspective."

Skvarla has also been open about his skepticism towards climate change, and has indicated he may believe that fossil fuels are renewable resources. With North Carolina's coasts severely vulnerable to rising sea levels, and the overwhelming scientific consensus that climate change is occurring, DENR's leader should be doing all that he can to mitigate these impacts, not questioning basic scientific facts.

Skvarla also claims that DENR is not changing or relaxing environmental regulations, but merely helping businesses and the regulated community to navigate the rules. But an action taken by the Division of Water Quality (now Division of Water Resources) this summer clearly refutes this. In an unprecedented move regarding a controversial water supply reservoir in Cleveland County, the Division simply waived a state permit that says the project won't hurt water quality.

Other appointments made by Governor McCrory also reveal a lack of support for North Carolina's citizens and a lack of understanding of the value of our natural resources. Art Pope, a former State Representative, was appointed to the powerful position of State Budget Director. Pope has given millions of dollars in contributions to conservative think tanks that are aggressively anti-environmental. Key priorities of these groups include: working to deny the overwhelming scientific consensus that climate change is happening, working to defeat the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard that has brought thousands of jobs to our state, and working to undermine most of our state's regulations that protect our citizens and natural resources. Christopher Ayers was appointed to head the Public Staff of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, a position charged with representing the interest of ratepayers. Ayers, however, comes to this position after working as a lawyer representing the very same electric, water, and wastewater public utilities that are regulated by that commission.

These appointments, and others, seem to reflect a strong anti-regulatory theme that has the potential, and has proven to undermine the investment North Carolina has made in sound environmental policies that serve the citizens of North Carolina.

APPENDIX

Clean Air and Energy: C

- "All of the above" energy platform
- Publicly supports renewable energy such as offshore wind and solar
- Declared June to be solar energy month
- Attended the ribbon cutting event of a new biomass production facility
- North Carolina was ranked 4th for clean energy jobs by Environmental Entrepreneurs during the first quarter of 2013.
- Signed HB 484 into law
- Publicly supports expanded reliance on coal, hydraulic fracturing, and offshore drilling.
- Signed SB 76 into law

Budget: F

- The Clean Water Management Trust Fund set at only \$6.75 million for 2013–14 and zeroed out thereafter.
- Significant reductions in the Natural Heritage Trust Fund, the Biofuels Center, and the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund.
- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources had their budget slashed by 40% compared to 2009 levels, and 24 vacant positions in the Department of Agriculture and 26 vacant positions in the Wildlife Resources Commission will be eliminated rather than be filled by people devoted to protecting the environment

Water Resources: D

- Signed HB 396 into law
- Proposed budget slashes the funding of several water related programs
- Support of fossil fuels threatens the quality of water across the entire state.
- Signed SB 515 into law
- Signed SB 151 into law
- Signed HB 74 into law

Appointments: F

- John Skvarla as Secretary of DENR
- Art Pope as State Budget Director
- Christopher Ayers as Head of Public Staff of the North Carolina Utilities Commission

The 2013 Green Tie Award Winners

NCLCV hosts an annual Green Tie Awards Dinner to honor legislators who prioritize the environment when making difficult decisions and community leaders who bring environmental issues to light. The 2013 Green Tie Awards winners are:

2013 Defender of the Environment – Representative Deborah Ross

With a 100% rating on the NCLCV scorecard in seven of the past ten years and a 94% lifetime score, Representative Ross has been a strong ally of the environmental movement. This year, Representative Ross opposed legislation which would have reversed four years of progress toward energy conservation and clean energy, and supported legislation preventing manufacturers from deceiving customers about the biodegradability of their products. Representative Ross has consistently and fervently stood against bad environmental legislation and has committed herself to defending our communities from the environmental degradation pushed by the pollution lobby. We are sad to see Representative Ross retire from her seat.

2013 Senator of the Year – Senator Dan Blue

As one of only three senators to earn a perfect score last year, and with a lifetime rating of 85 percent, Senator Blue is proving himself to be as environmentally conscious a Senator as he was a Representative. Despite overwhelming opposition in the Senate this year, Senator Blue voted to protect both the Piedmont region and the Coastal environments. By opposing legislation that would repeal all upstream pollution rules in the waters that feed Jordan Lake, Senator Blue showed his concern for both his native Wake County and the health of the state's waterways generally. By voting against legislation which would open up the entire coast to terminal groins, causing damage to the environment and hurting local voters who would no longer have a chance to vote against being saddled with years of debt, Senator Blue demonstrated an understanding of the delicate nature of our coasts and the importance of government accountability to voters.



2013 Representative of the Year – Representative Susan Fisher

During her decade representing Buncombe County in the NC House, Representative Susan Fisher has consistently voted in favor of the environment, with a lifetime score of a 94, and 100% in 2012. This session she introduced great bills promoting energy efficiency, discouraging mountain-top removal, and enhancing the conservation tax credit. She also supported the environment by voting against bills that would roll back energy conservation codes, regionalize public utilities, and weaken sustainable building standards.

2013 Catalyst Award – Sue Sturgis, The Institute for Southern Studies

Ms. Sturgis is the Editorial Director and Co-Editor for the Institute for Southern Studies. Over the years, Sue has done a tremendous job educating the public about environmental issues. In this new political landscape, we know that we need more voices speaking out in support of the environment and we need our decision-makers to understand that citizens and voters are watching them. Our citizens in turn must understand how the decisions made in Raleigh impact our daily lives and the environmental values we hold dear. Through Sue's media coverage, she has taken exceptional action to bring the public's attention to actions that are threatening North Carolina's environment and quality of life. Sue has published stories on fracking in North Carolina, on the attempt to end North Carolina's renewable energy program, and on the BP oil spill.

Now that you know the score... take action!

Help us hold legislators accountable. Thank legislators who stood up for sound environmental policies. If they had a low score, let your elected officials know what you think about their votes. You can find out who represents you at: www.ncga.state.nc.us/representation/WhoRepresentsMe.html.

Find out where your candidates for local, state, and federal office stand on these issues. Use the Scorecard to make informed decisions about which candidates deserve your support in the upcoming election.

Become a member of NCLCV today! You can help turn environmental values into North Carolina priorities by becoming a member of NCLCV today at nclcv.org.

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2013 LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

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