



CONNECTICUT LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

2018 ENVIRONMENTAL SCORECARD



Connecticut League of Conservation Voters

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Pictured top: Ken Bernhard, David Bingham, & Lori Brown.
Pictured below: Mary Hogue. Pictured left: Amanda Schoen, Alex Rodriguez, Lori Brown, Caroline Merritt, Joshua Claudio, & Camille Giraldo Kritzman.

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How to Use This Scorecard

HOW BILLS ARE SELECTED

Legislation included in this *Scorecard* represents a diverse set of environmental concerns. Environmental groups from around the state inform us about their priority bills. We consult with advocates throughout the session, lobby lawmakers on important initiatives, and track their votes.

HOW LEGISLATORS ARE SCORED

CTLCV grades legislators on a 0% to 100% scale based on their votes on environmental bills in committees, the Senate, and the House. The 2018 final score is the average of the legislator's individual votes on key bills we score. We do not currently score absences or abstentions, but they are indicated on our scorecard by an "A." However, a blank space means there was no vote to score for that legislator on that bill.

While the most recent session reflects current positions on specific bills, watching the long-term voting patterns and the Lifetime Average of individual lawmakers can give a broader view of their priorities. Lifetime Averages are calculated on the lawmaker's annual scores for consecutive years in the legislature.

¹ CHISPA is a joint program of the CTLCV and the League of Conservation Voters, launched to organize Latino families and communities of color in Connecticut to build a more powerful and influential voice in the fight against climate change.

JOIN THE FIGHT FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE.

There's a movement growing across our nation. Thousands of people are joining together to call on our lawmakers and leaders to take real action to cut carbon emissions, combat climate change, and invest in clean energy.

We're asking our lawmakers and candidates to commit to moving CT towards **100% clean energy by 2050.**

Now it's your turn.

Join CTLCV in taking the pledge to reject dirty fossil fuels and take a stand for clean energy. Together we can fight climate change, bring down energy costs, and build a better, brighter future for our state.



TAKE THE PLEDGE ONLINE AT CTLCV.org/clean-energy.html



2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



How Did Our Environment Fare?

The Connecticut League of Conservation Voters (CTLCV) worked with our environmental colleagues, lawmakers and legislators, and countless citizen advocates from across the state to advance key legislation at the Connecticut General Assembly this year. Listed within this document are the results of the bills we tracked during the short legislative session.

Significant votes cast in committees, the House, or the Senate are included

in this year's *Scorecard* and form the basis for legislators' scores.

Environmental concerns fared better this year than last year. We scored a big win with legislation to place a **constitutional amendment** referendum on the election ballot to **protect public lands**.

Legislators also pushed through **two significant energy bills**, making great progress towards meeting the goals Connecticut has set to combat

climate change. Unfortunately, they also contained an industry-led attack on residential solar.

While there were victories, we also endured losses. The largest of these was the legislature's refusal to adopt a **State Water Plan**.

Each of these battles lasted the entire legislative session. They tested the staying power of our advocates and our ability to fight back against powerful special interests.

There were other meaningful wins

this year, and many losses as well.

Advocates successfully blocked all proposed rollbacks of environmental regulations, including Consent Orders (SB 347), and fixed the 90-Day Automatic Permitting (HB 5454) from last year's special session.

Many lawmakers in the House and Senate paid special attention to environmental concerns, and some of our legislative champions were extraordinarily engaged in our priorities. Legislative leaders used the precious waning hours of the last night of the session to pass major environmental policy.

Throughout the last two years, more citizens than ever before have taken an interest in public policy, legislation, and conservation. Lawmakers noticed. While our *Scorecard* can sometimes hide behind-the-scenes behavior by legislators, both champions and foes were easy to spot this year.

Overall, 2018 was about building momentum. We can't stop now.

As candidates determine their priorities for the upcoming election, we need to ensure the environment is at the top of their list. We do this by talking with them, sharing our concerns, and telling them we know their score. ♦



Pictured left: The Connecticut Capitol Building as seen from Bushnell Park. Pictured opposite page: Sen. Tony Hwang (R-28) and Rep. Jonathan Steinberg (D-136) join CTLCV Education Fund activists at the Youth Day of Climate Action at the Legislative Office Building.

2018 LEGISLATIVE RECAP

LEGISLATIVE WINS

- SJ 35 Referendum to place a constitutional amendment on the ballot to protect public lands
- SB 7 Climate change planning and mitigation, emissions goals
- SB 9* Clean energy commitments and a statewide community solar program
- SB 104 Ban on pesticide misters
- SB 347 Consent Orders
- HB 5130 Timely reporting of unanticipated sewage spills
- HB 5354 Protections for snapping turtles
- HB 5358 Bear hunting (defeated)
- HB 5360 Climate change education in schools
- HB 5454 Fixes to 90-day automatic DEEP permits



LEGISLATIVE DEFEATS

- SB 9* Attack on residential solar
- SB 103 Ban on hydraulic fracking waste disposal (failed)
- SB 181 Pilot program to fund municipal conservation of open spaces (failed)
- SB 332 Gas pipeline tax repeal (failed)
- SB 502 Land conveyances
- HB 5188 Toxic tire mulch banned from use in playgrounds (failed)
- HB 5310 Electric vehicle sales (failed)
- HB 5329 Toxic flame retardants banned from children's clothes (failed)
- HB 5363 Carbon pricing (failed)
- HB 5457 Increased redemption value for bottles (failed)
- Other State Water Plan (failed)
- Other Energy Efficiency Funds (diverted)

*SB 9 contained both victories and a loss. It was not scored.



As the 2018 Legislative Session came to a close, it looked as though lawmakers would fail to do anything about one of the most critical issues of our time: climate change. But then, in the final hours of the session, the legislature passed two historic bills.

Years in the making, these bills increase Connecticut's investment in clean energy and help us combat the effects of climate change.

CLIMATE TARGETS & SEA LEVEL RISE

When President Trump pulled out of the Paris Climate Accords, states like Connecticut were left to pick up the slack on our own.

In January, the Governor's Council on Climate Change—charged with devising strategies to meet the mandates of the 2008 Global Warming Solutions

Act (GWSA)—unanimously voted to recommend an interim emissions target of 45% below 2001 levels by 2030.

The GWSA commits our state to reducing its total greenhouse gas emissions to a level that is at least 10% below 1990's emissions level by 2020 and at least 80 percent below 2001's emissions level by 2050.

While those goals are already laudable, forward-thinking leaders in the legislature drafted a new interim pollution reduction target of 45% by 2030 as part of the Climate Change Planning and Resiliency Act (SB 7).

Governor Malloy signed SB 7 into law on June 20, 2018. Not only will it cut our carbon footprint, it will also provide towns and municipalities with the resources they need to combat rising sea levels.

To make sure our next generation has the tools and knowledge they need to keep up this fight, a measure to make a climate science curriculum available to all Connecticut schools passed in the last minutes of the session.

CONNECTICUT'S CLEAN ENERGY COMMITMENT

GAINS—AND A LOSS—FOR CLEAN ENERGY

After tumultuous negotiations in the last days of the session, both chambers of the General Assembly passed Connecticut's Energy Future (SB 9) by overwhelming margins. This bill increases our state's investment in renewable energy, but also contained an attack on our growing solar industry.

Although CTLCV worked alongside our coalition partners on this legislation, we ultimately elected not to score it because of the attack on net metering. Many lawmakers and representatives of the fossil fuel industry were complicit in orchestrating the inclusion of this provision to weaken solar energy in our state. CTLCV and coalition of stakeholders are committed to fixing this setback in 2019—and have already begun working towards this goal as of the publication of this *Scorecard*.



On the positive side, the clean energy gains in SB 9 provide significant opportunities for Connecticut's renewable energy industry.

The bill greatly expands the amount of clean energy our state is required to use. The Renewable Portfolio Standard—as this measure is known—was previously set at 20% of all of Connecticut's energy needs. SB 9 expands that figure to 40% by 2030.

Additionally, SB 9 extends critical incentives in the Low- and Zero-Emission Renewable Energy Credit Program (LREC/ZREC), without which home-grown solar businesses would struggle. LREC/ZREC rewards "behind-the-meter" programs for their ability to reduce emissions. Under these programs, commercial energy projects powered by sources with no carbon emissions (such as solar or wind) and low carbon emissions (like fuel cells, biomass) earn credits that are purchased by utility companies to help developers offset the higher cost of renewable energy.

SB 9 also lifts the virtual net metering spending cap that for years has plagued towns and prevented them from investing in projects that would benefit residents and municipal budgets. And it continues the growth of Community Solar in Connecticut by establishing a statewide program to make clean solar power more accessible to middle- and low-income families and small businesses.

It is worth repeating that climate advocates, solar customers, and the solar business community will continue to fight together for fair net metering periods at the Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA) so that all Connecticut residents can choose and afford clean, job-creating solar power.

CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

A measure to make a climate science curriculum available to all Connecticut schools passed in the last minutes of the 2018 session. This new law requires the State Board of Education to encourage and help school boards include climate change curriculum consistent with the Next Generation Science Standards in their course work.

By prioritizing climate change education, we can ensure that our next generation of leaders is prepared to continue the fight to reduce our carbon footprint and invest in clean energy. ♦

What Is Solar Net Metering?

Net metering refers to our state's current solar compensation program. When homeowners or commercial solar customers generate more energy than they use, they can sell the excess back to the power grid at current retail rates.

Energy companies like Eversource oppose net metering in favor of a system where solar users sell all their power to the grid and buy back what they need at retail rate—making it nearly impossible for homeowners to use battery storage or certain smart-home energy systems.

SB 9 allows solar customers to either sell all their energy to the industry or use net metering, but at a to-be-determined rate set by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA).



Pictured: Governor Dannel Malloy signs SB 7 and SB 9 into law at the Connecticut Science Center.

PUBLIC WATER, PUBLIC TRUST

The comprehensive State Water Plan, mandated by the legislature in 2016, was developed by the Water Planning Council (WPC) in an intensive, costly two-year public process. Its purpose was to balance the needs of our public water supply, economic development, recreation, and ecological health.

The plan was delivered to the legislature for approval in 2018. An unusual, multi-committee public hearing process began, after which the legislature failed to call the plan for a vote. Because the General Assembly never brought the bill to the floor, CTLCV is unable to score this important issue.

The plan was blocked by a loose coalition of utilities and other businesses despite an extraordinary effort by Rep. Jonathan Steinberg and support from several legislative champions.

Opponents of the plan objected to language referring to water as a public trust resource—though it has been regarded as such since 1971 under the Connecticut Environmental Protection Act. The public requested this fact be acknowledged in the plan, and the language was unanimously approved by the WPC. The ensuing fight focused on whether the public trust doctrine requires water companies to protect natural streams and headwaters.

In the summer, Gov. Dannel Malloy came out strongly in support of water protection, and signed an executive order on June 13 directing the WPC to move forward on the plan as written and deliver it to the legislature for the 2019 session without change or deletion, including references to the public trust. While this is an important step forward in the fight for clean water, the battle will continue in 2019. ♦

STAY CONNECTED

GET INVOLVED. With so much at stake for our land, air, water, wildlife, and climate, we urge YOU to get involved and help us double down on efforts to protect the Connecticut we care so deeply about.

ACTION ALERTS. Get the latest news about important bills and policies impacting our environment by signing up for Action Alerts at CTLCV.org/Action-Alerts.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE. We post all the latest news, updates, and environmental actions on the web at CTLCV.org.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA. For up-to-the-minute reports from the frontline of the conservation movement, don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Twitter.



PROTECTING PUBLIC LANDS

Every year, the Government Administration and Elections Committee assembles a “state lands conveyance bill” (this year SB 502) and holds a public hearing on proposals to sell, swap, or give away public lands. The conveyance bill can include state parks, forests, or other conservation lands.

Whenever there is a public hearing, land conservation organizations and individuals have the opportunity to provide input. Over the last several years, many harmful proposals have been modified or withdrawn due to concerns raised by the public.

However, almost every year, additional public lands are added to the conveyance bill through late-session amendments—without receiving a public hearing. Public lands packed into these late amendments can be held hostage and horse-traded away for support on other bills—like the budget—with no public input at all.

Senate Joint Resolution 35 places a constitutional amendment on the ballot in 2018. It was developed to both stop late-session amendments that give away public lands without public input, and provide a higher bar for the most environmentally desirable public lands. If the constitutional amendment passes on November 6, it would require that before public lands could be sold, swapped, or traded away by the General Assembly, there must be both a public hearing and a two-thirds majority vote on public lands that are held by the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (e.g., state parks, forests, wildlife management areas, etc.) or the Department of Agriculture (e.g., state-owned farmlands and easements protecting them).

If the constitutional amendment is adopted by voters at the polls in 2018, lands under the custody of DEEP and the Department of Agriculture will be one step closer to stronger protections for future generations. ♦



Rocky Neck State Park



Farmington River Valley



Quinebaug River Water Trail



Devil's Hopyard State Park

PUBLIC LANDS

SJ 35 – Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Protect Real Property Held or Controlled by the State: SUPPORT/PASSED

Senate Joint Resolution 35 (now Resolution Act 18-1) was passed by both chambers in 2018 and places on the statewide ballot on November 6, 2018, a constitutional amendment to protect public lands by requiring 1) a public hearing before your public lands could be sold, swapped, or given away; and 2) a two-thirds vote for public lands held by CT DEEP or the CT Department of Agriculture. If adopted, there will be a greater level of transparency and opportunity for public input any time lawmakers want to change the ownership status of publicly owned property. SJ 35 is scored in the Government and Administration Committee, House, and Senate.

SEA LEVEL RISE

SB 7 – An Act Concerning Climate Change Planning and Resiliency: SUPPORT/ PASSED

Senate Bill 7 (now Public Act 18-82) establishes a new greenhouse gas reduction requirement and integraton into various state planning efforts. Under ths law, the state must reduce emissions to 45% below the 2001 level by 2030.

The law also calls for towns to proactively plan for the effects of climate change, ensuring they are prepared to protect people and property against the effects of sea level rise. SB 7 is scored twice in the Environment Committee (which includes a hostile amendment), Senate, and House.

FRACKING WASTE

SB 103 – An Act Concerning Hydraulic Fracturing Waste in Connecticut: SUPPORT/ FAILED

This bill permanently bans collecting, storing, handling, transporting, disposing, and using hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) waste in Connecticut. Fracking waste can contain toxic chemicals and is the result of controversial drilling techniques with known negative consequences for groundwater supplies. A temporary ban is in place until DEEP develops regulations for fracking waste. SB 103 is scored in the Environment Committee but died without further action by the Senate.

PESTICIDE MISTERS

SB 104 – An Act Prohibiting the Use of Residential Automatic Pesticide Misting Systems: SUPPORT/PASSED

Residential pesticide misting systems are often installed at a height that could directly spray children and pets, poison wildlife, and drift onto adjacent properties. As a result, Senate Bill 104 (now Public Act 18-84) prohibits the residential use and installation of these pesticide misting systems and authorizes the DEEP commissioner to adopt related regulations, which may include fines. The bill is scored in the Environment Committee, House, and Senate.

KEY	HB House Bill
	SB Senate Bill
	SJ Senate Joint Resolution
	SUPPORT/OPPOSE CTLCV's position
PASSED/FAILED Legislative response	

ENVIRONMENTAL PENALTIES

SB 269 – An Act Concerning the Assessment of Civil Penalties against Small Businesses by the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection: OPPOSE/FAILED

This bill sought to prohibit DEEP from assessing civil penalties against businesses with fewer than 250 employees for first-time violations of regulations. It would have allowed businesses up to six months to remedy violations before they could be penalized. Weakening enforcement of current environmental law is never in the best interest of our public resources, and is unfair to businesses that abide by the law. SB 269 is scored in the Commerce Committee where it died without further action.

COMMUNITY SHARED SOLAR

SB 336 – An Act Concerning Community Shared Solar: SUPPORT/PASSED (incl. in SB9)

For a variety of logistical or financial reasons, the majority of Connecticut’s residents cannot install solar panels. This initiative sought to expand access to solar power by establishing a statewide, 200MW community shared solar program. This system would focus on serving low- to moderate-income consumers and would help the state meet its renewable energy goals. SB 336 did not pass as a standalone bill, but key provisions establishing the program were included in SB 9, which contained a wide range of energy policy changes. Only the vote in the Energy and Technology Committee on SB 336 is scored.

CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION

SB 345 – Concerning Climate Change Education in Connecticut Schools: SUPPORT/ PASSED (incl. in HB 5360)

This initiative (now Public Act 18-181) requires the State Board of Education to encourage and help school boards include climate change curriculum consistent with Next Generation Science Standards. It also requires DEEP to help school boards develop the curriculum.

SB 345 did not pass as a standalone bill, but key language was included in HB 5360 (which has many unrelated provisions and was not scored). SB 345 is scored in the Environment Committee.

CONSENT ORDERS

SB 347 – An Act Concerning Consent Orders Entered into by the Commissioner of Energy & Environmental Protection: OPPOSE/FAILED

For the third consecutive year, a bill was raised to strip DEEP of an important enforcement tool by preventing the department from modifying or revoking a “Consent Order” against a specific polluter who had violated a clean-up agreement and was still refusing to cooperate.

This bill sought to circumvent environmental protection laws for the benefit of one company, but it would have changed the law statewide. SB 347 is scored twice in the Environment Committee and once in the Judiciary Committee. It died without further action by the House.

HERE'S WHAT WE SCORED IN 2018



PASSPORT TO THE PARKS

SB 429 – An Act Concerning the Passport to the Parks: SUPPORT/PASSED

Since the beginning of 2018, all vehicles with CT license plates are admitted into state parks without a parking fee thanks to the "Passport to the Parks." The Passport program generates funding for state park maintenance and operations from a \$10 fee paid every other year on motor vehicle registrations. SB 429 (now Public Act 18-7) clarifies that the Passport is a non-lapsing account, which better protects it against diversions and helps DEEP manage our parks and campgrounds from one year to the next.

The revised law also ensures that state property rentals, camping fees, and other revenues generated on parks will go into the Passport account. Passport funds also support the Council on Environmental Quality and the Soil & Water Conservation Districts. The bill is scored in the Environment Committee, House, and Senate.

LAND CONVEYANCE

SB 502 – An Act Concerning the Conveyance of Certain Parcels of State Land: OPPOSE/PASSED

This bill (now Public Act 18-154) was the annual land conveyance legislation that once again contained a variety of transfers of publicly owned land. Additionally, it also contained troubling changes to our existing laws, including overly broad "allowed uses" for public property, inadequate compensation for taxpayers, deletion of a quitclaim provision, and vague language about municipal referendums.

While legislators responded to public testimony and made the bill somewhat clearer and cleaner than in years past, the resulting law still falls short of CTLCV's high standards for transparency and fairness.

SB 502 is scored in the Government Administration and Elections Committee, the Senate, and the House.



DISCARDED TIRES

HB 5128 – An Act Concerning Beneficial End Uses for Discarded Tires and the Efficacy of Tire Hauling Licenses or Permits: OPPOSE/FAILED

The disposal of used tires has become a persistent problem for waterway pollution and controlling mosquito populations. Instead of working to advance a tire stewardship program to include Expanded Producer Responsibility as originally written in 2015, this year's legislation would have required DEEP to establish a tire hauler license program with a fee that would not solve the underlying problem.

HB 5128 was fortunately stopped by a "no action" decision in the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee, and is only scored in the Environment Committee where it originated.

SEWAGE SPILLS

HB 5130 – Concerning Sewage Spill Right-to-Know Act and Expanding Continuing Education Programs for Wastewater Operators: SUPPORT/PASSED

In the past, the public has not always been notified of sewage spills in a timely manner. HB 5130 (now Public Act 18-97) requires operators of sewage treatment plants, water pollution control facilities, and other public sewage works to electronically report to DEEP within two hours of becoming aware of a sewage spill. If the spill exceeds 5,000 gallons, operators must also notify the chief elected municipal official where the spill occurred, then notify the public and public officials in other affected towns.

Along with preexisting reporting requirements and possible civil or criminal penalties for failing to electronically report spills, this bill also establishes a certification renewal process and continuing education program for facility operators. HB 5130 is scored in the Environment Committee, House, and Senate.

DROUGHT MANAGEMENT

HB 5154 – An Act Concerning Water Usage and Conservation During Drought: SUPPORT/KEY PROVISIONS FAILED

This bill requires the Water Planning Council to submit a report to the Legislature every three years that discusses drought and water use restrictions, creates a public notification system with water companies and municipalities, and addresses the viability of enforcement mechanisms for water conservation. HB 5154 passed the Public Health Committee but was severely weakened by an amendment in the Environment Committee where core provisions of the original bill were removed, leaving the bill with loopholes and little protections.

Amendment A was adopted on a "voice vote" where individual votes are not recorded. The weakened bill was then passed by a full roll call vote. As such, only the Public Health Committee vote is scored in our report, not the Environment Committee votes.

TOXIC TIRE MULCH

HB 5188 – An Act Establishing a Moratorium on the Use of Recycled Tire Rubber at Municipal and Public School Playgrounds: SUPPORT/FAILED

This bill would have prevented using ground cover containing shredded rubber recycled from motor vehicle tires ("crumb rubber") on municipal or public school playgrounds. Crumb rubber contains multiple toxins and known carcinogens, endangering children's health. HB 5188 is scored in the Children's Committee and the Planning and Development Committee, where the bill was voted down.

CONTESTING REGULATIONS

HB 5264 – An Act Permitting Businesses to Seek an Opinion of the Attorney General Regarding State Agency Regulations: OPPOSE/FAILED

This bill would allow businesses to seek a declaratory ruling from the Attorney General over a difference of opinion about the application of a regulation by a state agency. It would add another barrier to regulatory protection of natural resources and create a conflict of interest in the AG's office between its duty to its client (the state) and businesses wanting representation against the state. This bill is scored in the Government Administration and Elections Committee, but died without further action in the Appropriations Committee.

ENVIRONMENTAL PENALTIES

HB 5266 – An Act Permitting the Suspension of Administrative Penalties Imposed on Certain Business Entities Pursuant to State Agency Regulations: OPPOSE/FAILED

This repeat legislation would have required DEEP to suspend civil penalties against a first-time offender for up to 30 days as long as the business took remedial measures to correct the violation. This bill is scored in the Government Administration and Elections Committee as well as the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, but died without further action by the House.

FIRING RANGE

HB 5304 – An Act Concerning the Firearm Training Needs of the Department Of Emergency Services and Public Protection: SUPPORT/FAILED

In response to the state's proposal to move the State Police firearms training facility in Simsbury to the Pachaug State Forest in Griswold, HB 5304 would have prohibited the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection from moving forward until a study could be conducted for alternative sites.

HB 5304 is scored in the Public Safety Committee. It died without further action.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

HB 5310 – An Act Concerning the Licensing of New and Used Car Dealers: SUPPORT/FAILED

Connecticut currently prevents innovative electric vehicle manufacturers—most notably Tesla—from selling vehicles directly to consumers, stifling growth in the electric vehicle marketplace. HB 5310 would have exempted car manufacturers that only produce electric vehicles from these restrictive franchise laws and allow the DMV to issue a car dealer's license to that company.

This legislation has been raised for several years and is supported by clean energy advocates across the state as a key component in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Unfortunately, existing car dealerships have blocked efforts to expand consumer choice and get more non-polluting electric vehicles on the road.

HB 5310 is scored in the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee and the Transportation Committee, but died without further action in the House.

FLAME RETARDANTS

HB 5329 – An Act Concerning the Use of Flame Retardant Chemicals in Children's Products and Upholstered Residential Furniture: SUPPORT/FAILED

This bill would have prohibited the sale and distribution of children's products and upholstered residential furniture containing organohalogen flame retardant chemicals, which many scientists consider a danger to public health.

Some studies have also linked long-term exposure to these chemicals to illnesses ranging from low birth weight, lower cognition scores, and even cancer.

HB 5329 originated in the Children's Committee where it is scored, but died in the Appropriations Committee without further action.

TURTLES

HB 5354 – An Act Concerning Snapping Turtles and Red-Eared Slider Turtles: SUPPORT/PASSED

Snapping turtles have lacked the same critical protections as all other wildlife in Connecticut due to a specific exemption in state laws. This allowed for commercial trapping of an ecologically important species. After years of public hearings and testimony from conservationists and wildlife experts, this year the state legislature finally amended the law to prohibit the commercial trade of snapping turtles until DEEP adopts regulations.

Additionally, this bill bans the import or release of Red-Eared Sliders in Connecticut waters or on our lands. Red-Eared Sliders are commonly purchased as pets and imported to Connecticut despite their status as a nuisance invader species.

This bill (now PA 18-114) is scored in the Environment Committee, House, and Senate.



BEAR HUNTING

HB 5358 – An Act Authorizing Black Bear Hunting in Litchfield County: OPPOSE/FAILED

For the second year in a row, a bill was raised by the Environment Committee to authorize recreational bear hunting in Connecticut. Unlike last year, there was growing concern expressed in public hearings about the reasoning behind this legislation, questions about the data on bear populations, and a lack of evidence that recreational hunting would have any impact on problem bears (the stated reason for the bill).

HB 5358 was defeated in the Environment Committee where it is scored.

90-DAY AUTOMATIC PERMITS

HB 5454 – An Act Concerning Ninety-Day Permit Turnaround Times for the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection: SUPPORT/PASSED

The budget passed in the 2017 special session allowed for the automatic approval of permit applications if DEEP did not review them within 90 days. HB 5454 (now Public Act 18-121) requires DEEP to make best efforts to review and make a final decision on a permit application within 90 days, as long as the application is complete. To adhere to this 90-day period, the DEEP commissioner is required to establish a pilot program to expedite the permit approval process.

HB 5454 is scored in the Environment Committee, House, and Senate. ♦

IMPORTANT LEGISLATION WITHOUT A SCORE

CLEAN ENERGY

SB 9 – An Act Concerning Connecticut’s Energy Future

This large bill expands Connecticut’s clean energy goals, changing the amount of power obtained from renewable and clean energy sources for electric distribution companies. The bill slightly increases the percentage of renewable and clean energy utilized in the state to 21% on January 1, 2020, increasing each year until renewable sources account for 40% of CT’s energy by 2030.

Additionally, SB 9 extends critical incentives in the Low- and Zero-Emission Renewable Energy Credit Program (LREC/ZREC) to assist home-grown solar businesses. It also establishes Connecticut’s investment in a statewide community solar program.

Unfortunately, the bill also contains a significant attack on how residential net metering is valued. This blow to the rooftop solar movement—orchestrated in large part by the fossil fuel industry and their allies in the legislature— will require a major effort in 2019 to ensure that the Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA) establishes a fair pricing scheme based on net metering periods.

Although the bill passed and contained many wins, SB 9 bill is not scored due to the net metering setback.

BOTTLE BILL

HB 5457 – An Act Concerning Bottle Redemption Centers

Advocates once again pushed for legislation to modernize CT’s landmark recycling law known as the “Bottle Bill.” This bottle deposit program still does not capture the wide array of juices, sports drinks, and other beverage containers that have grown in popularity in recent years.

More urgently, recycling “handlers” that collect and recycle bottles and cans are going out of business because Connecticut has not adjusted handling compensation in 34 years. These fees remain at just 1.5 cents for beer and 2 cents for soda and other beverages, and do not adequately cover handling costs. As a result, more redemption centers may shutter.

HB 5457 was a renewed effort to find a solution for this challenge, but it was badly rewritten before being voted out of the Environment Committee. The bill then died without further action by the House. There was no vote to score that fairly represented the issue.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY FUNDING

HB 5165 – An Act Eliminating Diversions of Electric Ratepayer Funds

The 2017 budget negotiations diverted roughly \$150 million from energy efficiency programs to fill gaps in our current 2018-19 biennium budget. Lawmakers transferred ratepayer dollars from the Energy Conservation and Load Management funds to the General Fund.

Public Act 18-81 decreases the amount taken from the fund by \$10 million—a far cry from what is needed to maintain the energy efficiency program. Since the full amount was not returned, the bill is not scored.

Shortly after session, a lawsuit was filed against the state. Energy and environmental advocates argue that use of these funds for other purposes is unconstitutional. The lawsuit was pending at the time of publication.

2018 LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

The following pages track legislators’ votes on bills CTLCV identified as environmental priorities. Lawmakers are sorted alphabetically, and their votes are recorded in committee and chambers as applicable.

LEGEND

- Blank** No vote
- A** Absent or abstained
- X** Anti-environment vote
- ✓** Pro-environment vote

ABBREVIATIONS

- ENV Environment Committee
- ET Energy and Technology Committee
- FIN Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee
- GAE Government Administration and Elections Committee
- H House
- JUD Judiciary Committee
- KID Committee on Children
- PH Public Health Committee
- PD Planning and Development Committee
- PS Public Safety and Security Committee
- S Senate
- TRA Transportation Committee

Note: Special elections for seats vacated during the session added new legislators and caused some changes in committee membership. Regarding votes in this *Scorecard*, Reps. Young and Linehan changed the composition of the Environment Committee. Rep. Arce’s departure left his seat unfilled until after the session.



Top left: Rep. Jonathan Steinberg (D-136) speaks on the environment. Middle left: House Chamber. Bottom left: Gov. Malloy joins Chispa activists at the Capital. Bottom: Citizens at environmental march in Hartford.

SCORECARD: HOUSE

REPRESENTATIVE
PARTY
DISTRICT
2018 SCORE
LIFETIME SCORE
 SJ 35 Constitutional Amendment
 SB 7 Sea Level Rise
 SB 103 Fracking Waste
 SB 104 Pesticide Mistfers
 SB 269 Environmental Penalties
 SB 336 Community Shared Solar
 SB 345 Climate Change Education
 SB 429 Parks

					GAE 3/23	H 5/9	ENV 3/22	ENV-A 3/22	H 5/9	ENV 2/28	ENV 2/28	H 5/9	CE 3/27	ET 3/29	ENV 3/22	ENV 3/22	ENV-A 3/22	JUD 4/24	ENV 3/22	H 5/4	
Abercrombie	D	83	78%	88%		✗			✓			✓		✓							✓
Ackert	R	8	60%	76%		✓			✓			✓	✗	✓							✓
Adams	D	146	78%	87%		✗			✓			✓									✓
Albis	D	99	82%	93%		✗			✓			✓						✓			✓
Altobello	D	82	73%	83%		✓			✓			✓									✓
Arce	D	4	----	----																	
Arconti	D	109	82%	83%		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✗	✓		✓		✓
Aresimowicz	D	30	75%	86%		✓			✓			✗									✓
Baker	D	124	86%	84%		✓			✓			✓									✓
Belsito	R	53	44%	56%		✗			✗			✓									✓
Berger	D	73	71%	80%		✓			A			✓						A			✓
Betts	R	78	86%	65%		✓			✓			✓									✓
Bocchino	R	150	78%	74%		✓			✓			✓	✗								✓
Bolinsky	R	106	71%	68%		✓			✓			✓									A
Borer	D	115	91%	88%		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Boyd	D	50	90%	87%		✓			✓			✓									✓
Buckbee	R	67	64%	57%		✓			✓			✓	✗								✓
Butler	D	72	80%	84%		✗			✓			✓									✓
Byron	R	27	67%	70%		✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓		✗	✗	✗		✓			✓
Camillo	R	151	88%	73%		✓			✓			✓									✓
Candelaria	D	95	88%	90%		✓			✓			✓									✓
Candelora	R	86	42%	58%		✓			✓			✗						✗			✓
Carney	R	23	87%	79%		✓	✓		A	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Carpino	R	32	70%	74%		✓			✓			✗						✗			✓
Case	R	63	88%	71%		✓			✓			✓									✓
Cheeseman	R	37	55%	53%		✓			✓			✓	✗								✓
Conley	D	40	73%	72%		✓			✓			✓						✗			✓
Cook	D	65	89%	91%		✓			✓			✓									✓
Cummings	R	74	64%	64%	✓	✓			✓			✓						✗			✓
Currey	D	11	89%	83%		✓			✓			✓						✓			✓
D'Agostino	D	91	78%	83%		✓			✓			✓									✓
D'Amelio	R	71	88%	67%		✓			✓			✓									✓
Dauphinais	R	44	36%	35%		✓			✗			✗									✓
Davis	R	57	64%	67%		✓			✓			✓	✗								✓
de la Cruz	D	41	89%	85%		✓			✓			✓									✓
Delnicki	R	14	67%	69%		✓			✓			✓									✓

SB 502 State Land Conveyance
 HB 5128 Tires
 HB 5130 Sewage Spills
 HB 5154 Drought Management
 HB 5188 Toxic Tire Mulch
 HB 5264 Contesting Regulations
 HB 5266 Environmental Penalties
 HB 5329 Flame Retardants
 HB 5304 Firing Range
 HB 5310 Electric Vehicles
 HB 5354 Turtles
 HB 5358 Bear Hunting
 HB 5454 90-Day Permits

						GAE 3/28	H 5/9	ENV 2/28	ENV 2/28	H 4/24	PH 3/26	KID 3/1	PD 4/6	GAE 3/23	GAE 3/23	FIN 4/24	KID 3/15	PS 3/16	TRA 3/23	FIN 4/17	ENV 3/14	H 4/26	ENV 3/14	ENV 3/22	H 5/2	
Abercrombie							✗			✓												✓				✓
Ackert							✗			✗													✓			✗
Adams							✗			✓								✓				✓				✓
Albis							✗			✓						✓					✓	✓				✓
Altobello							✗			✓						✓				✗	✗	✓				✓
Arce																										
Arconti							✗	✗	✓	✓												✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Aresimowicz							✗			✓													✓			✓
Baker							✗			✓													✓			A
Belsito							✗			✓			✗										✓			✗
Berger							✗			✓									✗				✓			A
Betts							✗			✓	A												A			✓
Bocchino							✗			✓													✓			✓
Bolinsky							✗			✓													✓			✗
Borer							✗	✗	✓	✓	✓											✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Boyd							✗			✓		✓						✓	✓				✓			A
Buckbee							✗			✓			✗					✗					✓			✓
Butler							✗			✓										✓			✓			✓
Byron							✗	✗	✓	✓												✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Camillo							✗			✓													✓			✓
Candelaria							✗			✓													✓			✓
Candelora							✗			✓	✗									✗			✓			✓
Carney							✗	✗	✓	✓									✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Carpino							✗			✓													✓			✓
Case							✗			✓													✓			✓
Cheeseman							✗			✓											✗		✓			✗
Conley							✗			✓			✓							✗			✓			✓
Cook							✗			✓	✓												✓			✓
Cummings						✗	✗			✓	✓								✗	✗			✓			✓
Currey							✗			✓													✓			✓
D'Agostino							✗			✓			✓										✓			✗
D'Amelio							✗			✓													✓			✓
Dauphinais							✗			✓		✗											✓			✗
Davis							✗			✓										✗			✓			✓
de la Cruz							✗			✓										✗			✓			✓
Delnicki							✗			✓			✗										✓			✗



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