

EXPLANATION OF THE VOTING CHARTS

The charts you will find by folding out these pages represent the voting record of each state legislator on important bills relating to environmental issues for which roll call votes were available. The votes tabulated are considered by the Maine League of Conservation Voters to be the most relevant roll call votes for each bill (on some bills there are several votes from which to choose). There were several pieces of important environmental legislation considered during the past legislative session which are not included in these ratings because roll call votes were not taken on the bills.

Any vote by itself may not be a fair benchmark of a legislator's environmental record. However, the percentage of pro-environmental votes cast, based on a series of votes as represented here, should give a good indication of an individual's overall environmental record. It is also important to look at a legislator's environmental ratings from previous years.

Voting on important issues is a key responsibility of legislators. Therefore, the League scores all unexcused absences as anti-environmental votes. You should note the number of times your legislator did not vote, in addition to the overall percentage rating.

Other considerations include: In comparing ratings among legislators, differences of 10 or 15% may be insignificant, but differences of 25 or 50% are very revealing. The votes and ratings only measure decisions on roll call votes on the floor of the House and Senate; they do not include committee votes. Occasionally, a pro-environmental legislator may purposely vote the wrong way for procedural reasons. It is not possible to take such factors into account in the ratings.

Leadership on environmental issues is not measured on these charts. Sponsoring bills, forging important compromises, derailing environmentally damaging proposals and convincing other legislators to vote correctly are critical activities in which some legislators are far more active than others on environmental issues.

This scorecard does not include the environmental records of those candidates for the Legislature who are not incumbents. It is recommended that voters question these candidates regarding their positions on the issues included on this scorecard and other critical environmental topics.

Finally, the combined ratings of the individual legislators should not be taken as descriptive of the environmental performance of the Legislature as a whole, which is not being rated here.

THE MAINE LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

The Maine League of Conservation Voters (MLCV) is an independent, non-partisan political action group organized to protect environmental quality through the electoral process. Since 1986, the League has analyzed and published the envi-

ronmental voting records of public officials.

The League's board of directors consists of prominent Maine conservationists. Members of the board serve as individuals and not as representatives of any other organization.

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HOW YOU CAN HELP

The most effective way to express your approval or disapproval of the environmental performance of legislators is to communicate with them directly. When the legislature is not in session, call or write legislators at home. When in session, you can contact them in Augusta by calling (Senate, 1-800-423-6900; House, 1-800-423-2900) or writing them c/o State House, Augusta, Maine 04333. Two useful publications: *Senate and House*

Registers, available from the Clerk of the House, State House, Augusta, Maine 04333; *Citizen's Guide to the Maine Legislature*, available from the Maine People's Resource Center, 65 West Commercial Street, Portland, Maine 04101; 207-761-1881.

You can support the work of the Maine League of Conservation Voters by contributing funds or by volunteering time.

The Maine League of Conservation Voters

Environmental Voting Record of the 116th Maine Legislature (1993 & 1994)



Including Ratings of All Members of the MAINE STATE SENATE and MAINE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FALL 1994

Enclosed is my contribution of: _____ \$100 _____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____ \$10 Other \$ _____

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Description of Votes

✓ State Energy Policy

LD 102 An Act to Amend the Energy Policy of the State

House Roll Call #12

House Motion: Accept Majority Ought Not to Pass Report

Correct Vote: NO

House Vote: March 9, 1993; Yes 96, No 44, Absent 11; Motion Prevailed

Description: This bill would have amended the State Energy Policy to ensure that environmental impact is one of the factors used in developing a least-cost energy plan. If this change were implemented, the Public Utilities Commission would be required to consider the environmental costs of energy production. The bill was killed by the Legislature.

✓ Gravel Pits

LD 519 An Act to Exempt Gravel Pits with Less Than 5 Unreclaimed Acres from Regulation by the Department of Environmental Protection under the Site Location of Development Act

House Roll Call #168

House Motion: Accept Majority Ought to Pass Report as Amended

Correct Vote: NO

House Vote: June 4, 1993; Yes 107, No 35, Absent 9; Motion Prevailed

Description: This bill allows gravel pits of up to 30 acres in size to be constructed without review under the Site Location of Development Law. Previously, all gravel pits in excess of 5 acres in size required a Site Law permit. The bill was passed and signed into law.

✓ Smoking in Public Places

LD 904 An Act to Protect Maine Citizens From the Effects of Environmental Tobacco Smoke

House Roll Call #171 Senate Roll Call #90

House Motion: Reconsider Earlier Vote Against the Bill

Correct Vote: YES

House Vote: June 4, 1993; Yes 79, No 58, Absent 14; Motion Prevailed

Senate Motion: Acceptance of Majority Ought to Pass Report as Amended

Correct Vote: YES

Senate Vote: May 25, 1993; Yes 19, No 15, Absent 1; Motion Prevailed

Description: This bill prohibits smoking in enclosed areas of buildings into which the public is invited or permitted, assuring citizens a smoke-free environment. The only exceptions allowed are for restaurants, lounges, and smoke shops. The bill was signed into law.

✓ Private Property Rights

LD 672 An Act to Protect Private Property

House Roll Call #166 Senate Roll Call #116

House Motion: Indefinitely Postpone Bill and Papers

Correct Vote: YES

House Vote: June 3, 1993; Yes 78, No 62, Absent 11; Motion Prevailed

Senate Motion: Accept Majority Ought Not to Pass Report

Correct Vote: YES

Senate Vote: June 4, 1993; Yes 14, No 21, Absent 0; Motion Failed

Description: This bill sought to require state and local governments to compensate landowners for regulations that could reduce the value of their land. This bill would have seriously undermined efforts to protect the environment and public health. The bill passed the Senate but was narrowly rejected by the House.

✓ Vehicle Emission Inspection

LD 1351 An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Emission Inspection Program

House Roll Call #181

House Motion: Recede and Concur with Senate Vote in Favor of Bill

Correct Vote: YES

House Vote: June 8, 1993; Yes 60, No 79, Absent 12; Motion Failed

Description: This bill amends Maine's motor vehicle emission inspection program, which had been enacted by a previous legislature, to bring it into conformance with federal law. The bill was eventually passed by the House and enacted into law.

✓ Chlorine-free Paper

LD 1431 An Act to Improve Markets for Chlorine-free Paper Products

House Roll Call #157

House Motion: Accept Majority Ought to Pass Report as Amended

Correct Vote: YES

House Vote: June 2, 1993; Yes 68, No 76, Absent 7; Motion Failed

Description: This bill would have established a hierarchy for state purchases of paper products that favors chlorine-free and recycled paper products. It would have allowed a 10% price differential in awarding contracts for products that are totally chlorine-free. Chlorine-free paper is made using less toxic chemicals than the standard paper bleaching process. The bill was killed by the Legislature.

✓ Solid Waste/Aseptic Packaging

LD 256 An Act to Allow the Use of Advanced Lightweight Beverage Containers

House Roll Call #260 Senate Roll Call #50

House Motion: Enactment

Correct Vote: NO

House Vote: March 23, 1994; Yes 92, No 46, Absent 13; Motion Prevailed

Senate Motion: Enactment

Correct Vote: NO

Senate Vote: March 24, 1994; Yes 21, No 11, Absent 3; Motion Prevailed

Description: This bill repeals Maine's ban on aseptic packaging (juice boxes). Maine had instituted the ban because the packaging is difficult to recycle. Removing the ban will result in more packaging entering the waste stream. The bill does not include provisions requiring aseptic packages to be recycled. The bill was passed and signed into law.

✓ Citizen Enforcement

LD 990 An Act to Supplement Environmental Enforcement

House Roll Call #241

House Motion: Accept Majority Ought Not to Pass Report

Correct Vote: NO

House Vote: February 15, 1994; Yes 100, No 41, Absent 10; Motion Prevailed

Description: This bill would have allowed a Maine resident to initiate an enforcement action for a violation of environmental laws. The Legislature has repeatedly opposed giving Maine citizens broader environmental enforcement rights. This bill, like its predecessors, was killed by the Legislature.

✓ Genetically Engineered Food

LD 1928 An Act to Require Labeling on Genetically Engineered Food

House Roll Call #276

House Motion: Accept Majority Ought Not to Pass Report

Correct Vote: NO

House Vote: March 25, 1994; Yes 84, No 51, Absent 16; Motion Prevailed

Description: This bill would have required that retailers label all genetically engineered food to help consumers make informed choices about the foods they eat. The bill was killed by the Legislature.

✓ Low Emission Vehicles

H.P. 1346 Joint Resolution Memorializing the Maine Representative on the Northeast Ozone Transport Commission to Vote No on the Petition to the Environmental Protection Agency on Low Emission Vehicles

House Roll Call #237

House Motion: Adoption

Correct Vote: NO

House Vote: January 27, 1994; Yes 61, No 68, Absent 22; Motion Failed

Description: This resolution sought to have the Governor, as Maine's representative on the Ozone Transport Commission, oppose the adoption of low emission vehicle standards by the Northeastern States. The standards would require new cars sold in Maine and other Northeastern States to meet tough emission standards to reduce air pollution. The resolution was killed by the Legislature.

✓ Utility Policy

LD 940 An Act to Minimize Energy Rates

Senate Roll Call #145

Senate Motion: Enactment

Correct Vote: NO

Senate Vote: June 14, 1993; Yes 27, No 8, Absent 0; Motion Prevailed

Description: This bill makes a significant change to public utilities policy which could undermine future energy conservation efforts. The bill directs the Public Utilities Commission to place increased emphasis on utility rates instead of total utility costs. This policy could encourage increased electricity sales and thereby discourage energy conservation. The bill was enacted into law.

✓ Nuclear Power

LD 376 An Act to Ensure Economic Benefits from Purchases by Generators of Nuclear Power

Senate Roll Call #114

Senate Motion: Recall Bill and Accompanying Papers from the Legislative Files

Correct Vote: YES

Senate Vote: June 3, 1993; Yes 12, No 22, Absent 1; Motion Fails

Description: This bill would have required the Maine Public Utilities Commission to review and approve a major retrofit of a nuclear power plant to assure that it is in the ratepayer's interest. Under current law, a substantial retrofit of Maine Yankee, which could extend its operational life, can be completed without review by the MPUC. The bill was killed by the Legislature.

