

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 two years 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.

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.

With regard to the upcoming House and Senate elections, this scorecard only includes the environmental records of those candidates who served in the Legislature during the past two years. It is recommended that voters question other candidates about 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

environmental 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; **Citizens' 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.

Maine League of Conservation Voters

Environmental Voting Record of the 117th Maine Legislature (1995 & 1996)



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

FALL 1996

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

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Description of Votes

✓ Seawalls

LD 160: This bill relaxes provisions governing the replacement and strengthening of seawalls by allowing such activities without obtaining a permit under the State's natural resource protection laws. In many instances, seawalls accelerate beach erosion and result in damage to fragile coastal ecosystems. The bill was enacted into law.

House Roll Call #76

House Motion: Enactment as Emergency Legislation
Correct Vote: NO

House Vote: May 9, 1995; Yes 97, No 47, Absent 7; Motion Failed (emergency enactment requires two-thirds vote)

✓ Genetically Engineered Food

LD 279: This bill would have required that retailers label all genetically altered food to help consumers make better informed choices about the foods they eat. The bill was killed by the Legislature.

Senate Roll Call # 42

Senate Motion: Accept Minority Ought to Pass Report
Correct Vote: YES

Senate Vote: April 11, 1995; Yes 9, No 23, Absent 1, Excused 2; Motion Failed

✓ Reformulated Gas

LD 376: This bill would have required the State to petition the federal Environmental Protection Agency to lift all regulations requiring the use of reformulated gas. When Maine ended its vehicle emission inspection program, the use of reformulated gas became the principal strategy to reduce air pollution from vehicles. The Legislature eventually killed the bill, thus requiring the use of reformulated gas in certain parts of the state and enabling Maine to meet its pollution reduction requirements under the federal Clean Air Act.

House Roll Call #196 Senate Roll Call #154

House Motion: Accept Majority Ought Not to Pass Report

Correct Vote: YES

House Vote: June 20, 1995; Yes 64, No 82, Absent 5; Motion Failed

Senate Motion: Accept Majority Ought Not to Pass Report

Correct Vote: YES

Senate Vote: June 26, 1995; Yes 15, No 19, Absent 1; Motion Failed

✓ Endangered Species

LD 428: This bill requires that all additions to the State's list of endangered and threatened species be approved by the Legislature. Previously, such listings were made by the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The result of this legislation is that the listing of endangered and threatened species will now

be a political, rather than scientific process. The bill was passed by the Legislature and signed into law.

House Roll Call #194 Senate Roll Call #177

House Motion: Accept Majority Ought to Pass Report as Amended

Correct Vote: NO

House Vote: June 20, 1995; Yes 106, No 37, Absent 8; Motion Prevailed

Senate Motion: Enactment

Correct Vote: NO

Senate Vote: June 28, 1995; Yes 19, No 16, Absent 0; Motion Prevailed

✓ Nuclear Power

LD 927: This bill would have required the Maine Public Utilities Commission to review and approve a major retrofit of a nuclear power facility to assure that it is in the public interest. Under current law, a proposal to retrofit the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Plant can be completed without review by the MPUC. The bill was killed by the Legislature.

Senate Roll Call #161

Senate Motion: Accept Majority Ought Not to Pass Report

Correct Vote: NO

Senate Vote: June 26, 1995; Yes 28, No 7, Absent 0; Motion Prevailed

✓ Pesticides

LD 941 This bill would have required the State Board of Pesticides Control to adopt rules to minimize pesticide contamination of groundwater. In recent years, pesticides have been detected in the groundwater of agricultural areas around the state. The bill was killed by the Legislature.

House Roll Call #101

House Motion: Accept Majority Ought Not to Pass Report

Correct Vote: NO

House Vote: May 18, 1995; Yes 110, No 31, Absent 10; Motion Prevailed

✓ Federal/State Environmental Standards

LD 952: The original bill prohibited the Department of Environmental Protection from enacting environmental standards more stringent than federal standards. The legislation that ultimately was passed into law establishes a legislative review process for state regulations deemed to be stronger than federal rules. This bill will make it more difficult for DEP to adopt regulations necessary to protect public health and Maine's environment.

House Roll Call #210

House Motion: Enactment

Correct Vote: NO

House Vote: June 21, 1995; Yes 111, No 30, Absent 10; Motion Prevailed

✓ Takings

LD 1217: The original bill would have seriously undermined efforts to protect the environment and public health by requiring state and local governments to compensate landowners for regulations causing a reduction in property value. Instead, the Legislature passed a resolution establishing a study commission on property rights and the public health, safety and welfare. That commission brought a package of balanced recommendations to the Legislature in 1996, which was enacted.

House Roll Call #247 Senate Roll Call #170

House Motion: Accept Minority Ought to Pass Report as Amended

Correct Vote: NO

House Vote: June 27, 1995; Yes 63, No 81, Absent 7; Motion Failed

Senate Motion: Accept Majority Ought to Pass Report as Amended

Correct Vote: Y

Senate Vote: June 27, 1995; Yes 28, No 6, Absent 1; Motion Prevailed

✓ Solid Waste/Plastic Rings

LD 1329: This bill repealed the ban on plastic "six-pack rings" which was scheduled to become effective in 1996. These devices had been banned by an earlier Legislature because of the danger that they pose to wildlife and their contribution to Maine's solid waste disposal problems. The repeal was passed by the Legislature and signed into law.

Senate Roll Call #142

Senate Motion: Accept Majority Ought to Pass Report as Amended

Correct Vote: NO

Senate Vote: June 21, 1995; Yes 28, No 6, Absent 1; Motion Prevailed

✓ Shoreland Zoning

LD 1672: A environmentally damaging amendment to this bill would have allowed major expansion of structures located close to lakes, rivers, wetlands and the coast. Under existing law, structures that do not meet the setback requirements from waterbodies can be reasonably expanded (30% increase in floor area). This proposal would have allowed small camps on the water's edge to be transformed into large houses. The amendment was killed by the Legislature and the remaining bill was enacted and signed into law.

House Roll Call #340 Senate Roll Call #338

House Motion: Accept Majority Ought to Pass Report as Amended

Correct Vote: NO

House Vote: March 27, 1996; Yes 25, No 110, Absent 16; Motion Failed

Senate Motion: Accept Majority Ought to Pass Report as Amended

Correct Vote: NO

Senate Vote: March 28, 1996; Yes 10, No 21, Absent 4; Motion Failed

✓ Forest Practices

LD 1347: This bill would have created new forestry standards to significantly limit clearcutting and over-harvesting of Maine's forests. It would have prohibited clearcutting except where scientifically justified. The bill was killed by the Legislature.

House Roll Call #187 Senate Roll Call #132

House Motion: Indefinitely Postpone Bill and Papers
Correct Vote: NO

House Vote: June 19, 1995; Yes 98, No 47, Absent 6; Motion Prevailed

Senate Motion: Acceptance of Majority Ought Not to Pass Report

Correct Vote: NO

Senate Vote: June 20, 1995; Yes 25, No 10, Absent 0; Motion Prevailed

✓ Solid Waste/Recycling

LD 1659: This bill allows incineration of waste to be considered as recycling by towns and regions. In doing so, it artificially inflates the percentage of the solid waste stream that is being "recycled." This action undermines the credibility of the State's solid waste policy and recycling goals. The bill was enacted and signed into law.

House Roll Call #303

House Motion: Accept Majority Ought to Pass Report as Amended

Correct Vote: NO

House Vote: March 7, 1996; Yes 97, No 32, Absent 22; Motion Prevailed

✓ Appalachian Trail / Saddleback Mountain

SP 718: This resolution jeopardizes the future of Saddleback Mountain, the only remaining unprotected stretch of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail in Maine. For years, the National Park Service has attempted to purchase a trail corridor on the mountain from Saddleback Ski Area. This resolution pressures the National Park Service to accept a proposal by the Ski Area considered by the Park Service and Appalachian Trail supporters to be totally inadequate to preserve this extraordinary section of trail. The resolution was adopted by the Legislature.

House Roll Call #307 Senate Roll Call #289

House Motion: Adoption

Correct Vote: NO

House Vote: March 13, 1996; Yes 87, No 53, Absent 11; Motion Prevailed

Senate Motion: Adoption of Senate Amendment "A"

Correct Vote: YES

Senate Vote: March 7, 1996; Yes 6, No 26, Absent 3; Motion Failed

