

# Environmental Scorecard

**GEORGIA CONSERVATION VOTERS**

2005 | 2006



GEORGIA CONSERVATION VOTERS

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

# ABOUT GCV

Georgia Conservation Voters (GCV) exists to accomplish a three-part mission: to elect conservation-minded leaders to the General Assembly; to hold elected officials accountable for how well they work to protect and restore Georgia's environment; and to educate both legislators and voters on environmental issues. GCV presents this 2005-2006 Environmental Scorecard to provide objective and factual information about the votes of Georgia's legislators on conservation issues.

We wish to acknowledge our environmental champions whose leadership and values continue to protect Georgia's natural heritage. We would also like to thank our legislative partners who help us carry out our work at the Capitol.

Nick Moraitakis  
*Board Chair*

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*Vice-President*

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*Secretary*

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE Executive Director

The 2005 Session had an unique energy to it; it was the first session in Georgia's History in over 100 years in which the Republican Party controlled both chambers. The power shift and consequent change in political and lobbying dynamics were a rejoinder for some, painful for others. For the environmental community, blocking bad bills was a top priority. The 2005 Session introduced three specific anti-environmental bills that we soundly celebrated defeating. SB 5, the public-private partnership eminent domain abuse bill, was withdrawn by its sponsor under a storm of criticism from around the state. HB 218, the economic development secrecy act, was tabled in the Senate. SB 190, the end of citizen appeals of EPD permits, was amended to protect the due process and private property rights of Georgians faced with proposed landfills and power plants in their communities. An important victory came with a good bill, HB 98, the Governor's land conservation act that gave \$100 million to land protection efforts.

The 2006 Session was equally energized. With new staff on board, GCV was able to broaden our involvement in the legislative session and in the coalition efforts that unfolded there. While most of the legislative battles took place behind the scenes, the conservation community celebrated a few impressive victories from the ropes at the Capitol. None was more exciting for the conservation community than the defeat of SB 510, the Stream Buffer Bill. Sponsored by Sen. Chip Pearson, the conservation community opposed SB 510 from its introduction. Poised to allow the building of homes within stream buffers protecting drinking water reservoirs, the bill was fought on every level – from Senate subcommittee, to full committee, to Rules to the floor, and then again in the House. It came up for a vote in the House late in the day on Sine Die - the last day of the Session - after its anticipation for 5 days by the environmental lobby. Its sound defeat, 30-139, was a major bi-partisan victory, protected clean drinking water in Georgia. Another major victory was on HB 1097, the billboards bill, when twice – in both the House and the Senate – the conservation community, alongside the Garden Club ladies, successfully struck sections of the bill that would allow billboard owners to cut a limitless number of trees around their signs, including trees on state-owned property.

As an organization, our mission is to protect Georgia's natural landscape by changing its political landscape. To achieve that mission we must defeat bills that would foul our streams and impair the air we breathe. We must fight to pass bills that strengthen enforcement of the environmental regulations already on the books. We must encourage our elected officials to be environmental champions and we must inform the public of a legislators' commitment, or lack of commitment, to our natural heritage. GCV encourages you to study the Scorecard and educate yourself on the bills and the performance of your legislators. If you like what you see, contact them and tell them that they are serving you well. If not, contact them and encourage them to serve you better. And as always, let us know how we can keep you better informed. Please visit our website at [www.gavoters.com](http://www.gavoters.com).

Thank you for your involvement in GCV,



Jason S. Rooks, Executive Director

# House

## VOTES INTRO

### 1 Deadhead logging

**SB 283**, introduced by Senator John Bulloch, provided for the Department of Natural Resources to establish a program to authorize deadhead logging operations in the Altamaha and Flint Rivers.

Deadhead logs are logs that were commercially harvested from Georgia forests during the nineteenth or twentieth century and that sank while being floated to mill or market, or that were intentionally sunk for storage. This process of exhuming these logs can have a high negative impact on ecosystems and the river.

This vote was on the passage of the bill, authorizing deadhead logging in the Altamaha and Flint Rivers. The bill passed the House 90-76.

**NO was the pro-conservation vote on the passage of the bill.**

### 2 Economic Development Secrecy

Introduced by Representative Ron Stephens, **HB 218** aimed to deal with the intense competition between communities for economic development. This bill would have prevented public knowledge of government negotiations with companies until after crucial decisions had been made. Concerns over this bill included the potential to undercut the principles of open government by exempting from public disclosure all records, agreements, impact assessments, etc. about a project labeled as economic development. **HB 218** threatened to erode citizens' input into how their tax money is directed and how their communities are governed. The bill passed the House 118-52; however it failed to reach the Senate floor for a vote.

**NO was the pro-conservation vote on the passage of this bill.**

### 3 Georgia Land Conservation Plan

The Land Conservation Plan, **HB 98**, was introduced by Representative Rich Golick in a multi-tiered approach to conserve greenspace in Georgia. The act

provided for the creation of the Georgia Land Conservation Council, the Georgia Land Conservation Trust Fund, and the Georgia Land Conservation Revolving Loan Fund. The bill passed the House unanimously, 174-0. It went on to pass the Senate.

**YES was the pro-conservation vote on the passage of this bill.**



### 4 Georgia Conservation Tax Credit

**HB 1107**, widely known as the Land Conservation Tax Credit, was introduced by Representative Jay Roberts. This popular bill, one of four bills on GCV's legislative agenda, was written in accordance with the Land Conservation Act (HB 98) of 2005. The Conservation Tax Credit provided for a 25% state income tax credit, up to \$250,000 for individuals and \$500,000 for corporations, who place their land in a permanent conservation easement or a qualified donation to state, county or municipal governments, or a charitable nonprofit organization. This bill slid through the House with a vote of 156-0.

It also passed in the Senate.

**YES was the pro-conservation vote on the passage of this bill.**

### **5 Billboards, Trees, and Highway Beautification**

**HB 1097** was introduced by Representative Tom McCall and pertained to the regulation of several aspects of highway billboard signage. The bill mostly dealt with billboard content legalities. However, two threatening clauses were tucked into Section 5 of the bill that the conservation community, led by the Garden Club of Georgia, strongly opposed. Section 5 would allow billboard owners to cut a limitless number of trees around their signs, including trees on state-owned property. This same section would also remove current fees for tree removal - those funds contribute to beautification of Georgia's highways. The proposed amendment would have prevented the striking of Section 5 from the bill. The amendment failed with a vote of 74-89. The bill went on to pass both the House and the Senate.

**NO was the pro-conservation vote, to not pass an amendment that would stop the strike of Section 5.**

### **6 Infrastructure Development Districts**

**HB 1323** was a complex bill that provided for a comprehensive program for the creation of infrastructure development districts. These development districts are popular in Florida and have resulted in carving much of the landscape into enormous subdivisions; complete with schools, businesses, and autonomy. Concern over this bill centered on its provision for a board comprised of developers to administer these districts. Further, there were provisions allowing this board to levy taxes, fees, and assessments. The bill gave developers the right to tax like local governments. Additionally, it would further complicate the layers of authority that already slow decision-making processes in Georgia. It was presented by Representative Larry O'Neal. The bill passed the

House 121-37 but never made it to a floor vote in the Senate.

**NO was the pro-conservation vote on the passage of this bill.**

### **7 Stream Buffer Destruction**

The conservation community put up an intense fight against **SB 510**. Senator Chip Pearson introduced the bill early in the session. The bill affected 150-foot stream buffers that protect streams within seven miles upstream from a drinking water reservoir. The bill provided for a variance process, to be managed by EPD, which would allow intrusion into those buffers. Additionally, the bill would have allowed an exemption from the buffer requirement for a single dwelling on a 2-acre or larger tract, allowing homes and accompanying structures to be built within the stream buffer without requiring a variance process. The bill failed 30-139.

**NO was the pro-conservation vote on the passage of this bill.**

### **8 Encouraging Construction of Nuclear Plants**

**HR 1365**, a resolution by Representative Bob Smith, urged electric utilities to consider building new nuclear power plants in Georgia and the Public Service Commission to take appropriate steps to encourage this policy. This resolution passed the House 118-32.

**NO was the pro-conservation vote on the passage of this resolution.**

# Votes

## HOUSE

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NV  
Blank

Pro-Conservation  
Anti-Conservation  
Absent/Not Voting  
No Score/Not in Office

Representative	Party	District	%	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Roberta Abdul-Salaam	D	74	100	+	+	+	+	NV	NV	+	NV
Amos Amerson	R	9	50	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-
Alberta Anderson	D	123	100	+	+	+	+	+	NV	+	+
Kathy Ashe	D	56	100	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Terry Barnard	R	166	38	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
Mike Barnes	D	78	40	-	-	+	NV	NV	-	+	NV
Timothy Bearden	R	68	75	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-
Sharon Beasley-Teague	D	65	100	NV	+	+	NV	+	NV	+	+
Stephanie Benfield	D	85	100	+	+	+	NV	+	NV	+	+
Thomas Benton	R	31	50	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	-
Ellis Black	D	174	50	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	+
Tom Bordeaux	D	162	100	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Ron Borders	D	175	57	-	NV	+	+	+	-	+	-
Ben Bridges	R	10	25	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
Tyrone Brooks	D	63	100	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Jeff Brown	R	69	38	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
Roger Bruce	D	64	100	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	NV
Bob Bryant	D	160	75	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
Debbie Buckner	D	130	88	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+
Gail Buckner	D	76	71	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	NV
Mark Burkhalter	R	50	40	NV	-	+	+	-	NV	NV	-
Sue Burmeister	R	119	38	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
Jon Burns	R	157	50	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
Mark Butler	R	18	50	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	-
Charlice Byrd	R	20	71	+	-	+	+	+	+	NV	-
Buddy Carter	R	159	38	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
David Casas	R	103	50	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	-
Jill Chambers	R	81	57	-	-	+	+	+	NV	+	-
Mickey Channell	D	116	50	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
Mike Cheokas	D	134	43	-	-	+	+	NV	-	+	-
Mike Coan	R	101	33	NV	-	+	+	-	-	NV	-
James Cole	R	125	38	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
Brooks Coleman	R	97	43	-	-	+	+	+	-	NV	-
Terry Coleman	D	144	60	NV	-	+	NV	+	-	+	NV
Sharon Cooper	R	41	63	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-
Clay Cox	R	102	38	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	-

2005 2006

**Absenses and abstentions have no  
negative effect on scores.**

\* Phyllis Miller of District 106 left office after the 2005 Session;  
Melvin Everson became Representative of District 106.

Representative	Party	District	%	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Mack Crawford	R	127	63	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	-
Bill Cummings	D	16	50	-	-	+	+	NV	-	+	NV
Steve Davis	R	109	38	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-
Burke Day	R	163	50	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	-
Douglas Dean	D	59	86	NV	+	+	+	+	-	+	+
Tom Dickson	R	6	38	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
Ron Dodson	D	75	33	-	-	+	+	NV	-	-	NV
Matt Dollar	R	45	57	+	-	+	+	NV	-	+	-
Karla Drenner	D	86	83	+	+	+	NV	+	-	+	NV
Winfred Dukes	D	150	86	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	NV
Earl Ehrhart	R	36	38	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
Terry England	R	108	38	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
Carl von Epps	D	128	75	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
Melvin Everson *	R	106	40				+	-	-	+	-
Barry Fleming	R	117	38	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
Hugh Floyd	D	99	57	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	NV
Johnny Floyd	D	147	43	-	-	+	+	-	NV	+	-
Virgil Fludd	D	66	75	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-
Ronald Forster	R	3	25	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
Bobby Franklin	R	43	25	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
Allen Freeman	R	140	50	NV	-	+	+	NV	-	+	-
Pat Gardner	D	57	100	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	NV
Harry Geisinger	R	48	57	+	-	+	+	NV	-	+	-
Rich Golick	R	34	75	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-
David Graves	R	137	25	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
Tom Graves	R	12	25	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
Gerald Greene	D	149	43	-	-	NV	+	+	-	+	-
Bob Hanner	D	148	50	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	-
Ben Harbin	R	118	50	NV	-	+	+	-	NV	+	-
Mark Hatfield	R	177	88	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
John Heard	R	104	29	-	-	NV	+	-	-	+	-
Keith Heard	D	114	63	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-
Joe Heckstall	D	62	88	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+
Bill Hembree	R	67	38	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
Michele Henson	D	87	86	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	NV
J. Calvin Hill	R	21	63	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-

**2005    2006**

# Votes

## HOUSE

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NV  
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Pro-Conservation  
Anti-Conservation  
Absent/Not Voting  
No Score/Not in Office

Representative	Party	District	%	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Cecily Hill	R	180	38	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
Bob Holmes	D	61	100	+	+	+	NV	+	+	+	+
Doug Holt	R	112	57	-	-	+	+	NV	+	+	-
Billy Horne	R	71	38	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
Penny Houston	R	170	75	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-
Henry Howard	D	121	75	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
Sistie Hudson	D	124	67	+	NV	+	NV	+	-	+	-
Carolyn Hugley	D	133	88	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+
Lester Jackson	D	161	86	+	+	+	NV	+	-	+	+
Mike Jacobs	D	80	100	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Lynmore James	D	135	63	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-
Jeanette Jamieson	D	28	88	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+
Charles Jenkins	D	8	43	-	NV	+	+	+	-	-	-
Paul Jennings	R	82	80	NV	NV	NV	+	+	+	+	-
Terry Johnson	D	37	83	-	+	+	+	+	NV	+	NV
Jan Jones	R	46	40	NV	-	+	+	NV	-	NV	-
Sheila Jones	D	44	100	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Darryl Jordan	D	77	100	+	+	+	NV	+	+	+	NV
Jerry Keen	R	179	29	-	-	+	+	-	-	NV	-
Mike Keown	R	173	50	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	-
Jane Kidd	D	115	75	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
David Knight	R	126	38	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
Tom Knox	R	24	50	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	-
Dan Lakly	R	72	57	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	NV
Bob Lane	R	158	50	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
Roger Lane	R	167	57	-	-	+	+	+	NV	+	-
Jeff Lewis	R	15	25	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
Edward Lindsey	R	54	63	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-
Jimmy Lord	D	142	50	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
Barry Loudermilk	R	14	25	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
David Lucas	D	139	67	+	NV	+	NV	+	-	+	-
John Lunsford	R	110	29	NV	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
Eugene Maddox	R	172	25	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
Randal Mangham	D	94	100	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	NV
Judy Manning	R	32	50	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	-
Pedro Marin	D	96	57	+	-	+	+	NV	-	+	-

2005 2006

**Absenses and abstentions have no  
negative effect on scores.**

\* Phyllis Miller of District 106 left office after the 2005 Session;  
Melvin Everson became Representative of District 106.

Representative	Party	District	%	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Chuck Martin	R	47	50	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
Howard Maxwell	R	17	29	-	-	+	+	-	-	NV	-
Jeff May	R	111	25	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
Tom McCall	R	30	29	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	NV
JoAnn McClinton	D	84	100	+	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV
John Meadows	R	5	57	-	-	+	NV	+	+	+	-
Fran Millar	R	79	60	-	-	+	+	NV	NV	+	NV
Phyllis Miller *	R	106	67	+	-	+					
James Mills	R	25	43	NV	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
Billy Mitchell	D	88	83	+	+	+	NV	NV	-	+	+
Alisha Morgan	D	39	100	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	NV
Greg Morris	D	155	29	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	NV
Howard Mosby	D	90	86	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	NV
Hinson Mosley	R	178	50	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	-
Robert Mumford	R	95	83	+	-	+	+	+	NV	+	NV
Jack Murphy	R	23	29	-	-	+	NV	-	+	-	-
Quincy Murphy	D	120	63	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-
Jay Neal	R	1	17	NV	-	+	NV	-	-	-	-
Mary Margaret Oliver	D	83	100	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Larry O'Neal	R	146	50	NV	NV	+	+	-	-	+	-
Nan Orrock	D	58	100	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Bobby Parham	D	141	67	-	-	+	+	+	NV	+	NV
Larry Parrish	D	156	50	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	-
Don Parsons	R	42	38	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
DuBose Porter	D	143	75	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-
Alan Powell	D	29	63	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-
David Ralston	R	7	38	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
Nikki Randall	D	138	88	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+
Robert Ray	D	136	43	-	+	+	NV	-	-	+	-
Barbara Reece	D	11	57	-	+	+	NV	+	-	+	-
Stacey Reece	R	27	25	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
Bobby Reese	R	98	38	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
Tom Rice	R	51	43	-	-	+	+	+	-	NV	-
Glenn Richardson	R	19	-	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV
Jay Roberts	R	154	25	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
Carl Rogers	R	26	38	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-

**2005    2006**

# Votes

## HOUSE

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NV  
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Pro-Conservation  
Anti-Conservation  
Absent/Not Voting  
No Score/Not in Office

Representative	Party	District	%	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Richard Royal	D	171	38	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
Ed Rynders	R	152	57	-	+	+	+	-	NV	+	-
Ron Sailor	D	93	88	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+
Chuck Scheid	R	22	50	-	NV	+	+	-	-	+	NV
Austin Scott	R	153	50	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
Martin Scott	R	2	25	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
Ed Setzler	R	35	33	-	-	+	NV	NV	-	+	-
Jay Shaw	D	176	57	-	NV	+	+	+	-	+	-
Donna Sheldon	R	105	43	-	-	+	+	-	NV	+	-
Chuck Sims	R	169	50	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
Freddie Sims	D	151	75	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-
Georganna Sinkfield	D	60	100	+	+	+	NV	+	+	+	+
Bob Smith	R	113	25	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
Lynn Smith	R	70	38	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
Paul Smith	D	13	43	-	-	NV	+	+	-	+	-
Richard Smith	R	129	25	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
Tommy Smith	R	131	38	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
Vancy Smith	R	168	25	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
Calvin Smyre	D	132	67	+	-	+	+	+	-	NV	NV
LaNett Stanley-Turner	D	53	86	+	+	+	NV	+	-	+	+
Ron Stephens	R	164	25	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
Pam Stephenson	D	92	83	+	+	+	NV	+	-	+	NV
Willie Talton	R	145	50	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	-
Rob Teilhet	D	40	100	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Brian Thomas	D	100	100	+	+	+	+	+	NV	+	NV
Able Mable Thomas	D	55	100	+	+	+	NV	+	+	+	+
Steve Tumlin	R	38	63	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-
Len Walker	R	107	71	+	-	+	+	+	NV	+	-
Pete Warren	D	122	71	+	-	+	+	+	NV	+	-
Stan Watson	D	91	86	+	+	+	NV	+	-	+	+
Joe Wilkinson	R	52	71	+	-	+	+	+	NV	+	-
Wendell Willard	R	49	57	-	-	+	+	+	NV	+	-
Al Williams	D	165	75	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
Coach Williams	D	89	100	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	NV
Roger Williams	R	4	50	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	-
Don Wix	D	33	50	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	-
John Yates	R	73	50	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	-

2005 2006

# Senate

## VOTES INTRO

### 1 Landfills and Solid Waste

Senator Jim Whitehead introduced **SB 122**, a lengthy bill to renew the state's basic solid waste laws. The Senate Natural Resources Committee amended the bill to change provisions relating to limits on the number of solid waste facilities within a given area. While the amended bill that came out of committee would have allowed an unlimited number of landfills in a central location, the Zamarripa amendment presented on the Senate floor aimed to maintain the existing regulation regarding the number of landfills that could be in a single location. The Zamarripa amendment failed 21-32. The bill, however, passed both the Senate and the House.

**YES was the pro-conservation vote on the Zamarripa amendment.**

### 2 Stay Rule

**SB 190** dealt with third party petitions against permits granted by the Environmental Protection Division. Introduced by Senator Ross Tolleson, the bill denies a third party the right to appeal permits that have been granted. The bill further states that the filing of a petition will not result in a permit delay except under certain rare circumstances. The bill passed the Senate 32-30. The bill later passed the House.

**NO was the pro-conservation vote in the passage of this bill.**

### 3 Flex Lanes

**HB 273**, introduced by Representative John Lunsford, authorized the Department of Transportation to create "FlexAuto lanes." These lanes would be areas designated as special lanes of travel created by converting emergency lane and hard shoulder areas on the left or right side of an interstate highway or other road into a rush hour traffic lane for use by automobiles only during certain hours. This bill passed the Senate 34-15.

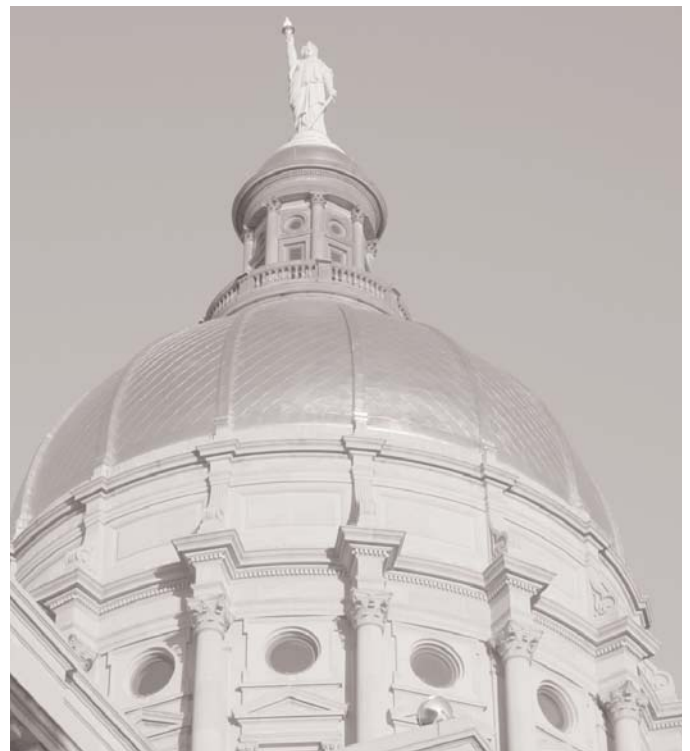
**NO was the pro-conservation vote on the passage of this bill.**

### 4 Redefine Eminent Domain

**SB 86**, introduced by Senator Jeff Chapman,

prohibited taking private property for the purpose of conveying it to another private party. It further prohibited condemning land "for the purpose of improving the tax base, or for the purpose of economic development." As rarely happens, this legislation provided for protection of property and the environment over economic development. **SB 86** passed the Senate with a vote of 40-10 but failed to reach the House floor for a vote.

**YES was the pro-conservation vote on the passage of this bill.**



### 5 Agricultural Facilities Nuisances

Senator Casey Cagle introduced **SB 26** to limit the circumstances under which property owners can file a nuisance complaint against agricultural facilities and operations or agricultural support facilities, including meat and poultry rendering facilities. Senator Ross Tolleson's proposed amendment removed the exemption of meat and poultry rendering facilities, thereby maintaining existing protection to property owners to file nuisance claims against these

# Senate

## VOTES INTRO, cont.

facilities. The amendment failed 15-37. It passed the Senate but did not reach the House floor for a vote.

**YES was the pro-conservation vote on the amendment to maintain existing nuisance protection against rendering facilities.**

### **6** Congressional Funding for Transportation

Introduced by Senator Mitch Seabaugh, **SB 4** allocated funds collected from a levied gas tax among Congressional Districts to be used for transportation funding. This bill passed the Senate 42-9 and went on to pass the House.

**YES was the pro-conservation vote on the passage of this bill.**

### **7** Georgia Land Conservation Plan

The Land Conservation Plan, **HB 98**, was introduced by Representative Rich Golick in a multi-tiered approach to conserve greenspace in Georgia. The act provided for the creation of the Georgia Land Conservation Council, the Georgia Land Conservation Trust Fund, and the Georgia Land Conservation Revolving Loan Fund. **HB 98** passed the Senate easily, 52-2.

**YES was the pro-conservation vote on the passage of this bill.**

### **8** Biodiesel Blends for Government Vehicles

**SB 453** was introduced by Senator Brian Kemp and would have required at least 2% of the total volume of fuel purchased by school districts, counties, municipalities, or government authorities to be biodiesel by January 1, 2008. **SB 453** passed the Senate 52-4 but never had a floor vote in the House.

**YES was the pro-conservation vote on the passage of this bill.**

### **9** Georgia Conservation Tax Credit

**HB 1107**, widely known as the Land Conservation Tax Credit, was introduced by Representative Jay Roberts. This popular bill, one of four bills on GCV's legislative agenda, was written in accordance with the Land Conservation Act (**HB 98**) from 2005. The Conservation Tax Credit provided for

a 25% state income tax credit, up to \$250,000 for individuals and \$500,000 for corporations, who place their land in a permanent conservation easement or a qualified donation to state, county or municipal governments, or a charitable nonprofit organization. This bill passed the Senate unanimously, 49-0.

**YES was the pro-conservation vote on the passage of this bill.**



### **10** Encouraging Construction of Nuclear Plants

**SR 865**, by Senator Mitch Seabaugh, urged electric utilities to consider building new nuclear power plants in Georgia and the Public Service Commission to take appropriate steps to encourage this policy. This resolution passed the Senate 43-6.

**NO was the pro-conservation vote on the passage of this resolution.**

### **11** Stream Buffer Destruction

**SB 510** was a bill that was fought hard by the conservation community. It was introduced early in the session by Senator Chip Pearson, and related to 150-foot stream buffers that protect streams within

seven miles upstream from a drinking water reservoir. The bill provided for a variance process, to be managed by EPD, which would allow intrusion into those buffers. Additionally, the bill would have allowed an exemption from the buffer requirement for a single dwelling on a 2-acre or larger tract, allowing homes and accompanying structures to be built within the stream buffer without and variance process being required. SB 510 passed the Senate 33-16 but failed in the House.

**NO was the pro-conservation vote on the passage of this bill.**

### **12** Preferential Taxes for Conserved Land

**SB 604**, introduced by Senator Seth Harp, related to current use assessment for bona fide conservation use property. Namely, it allowed stream buffers adjacent to rivers, reservoirs or streams which remain in the natural, undisturbed state of vegetation to be included in the current use assessment program, through which property taxes are levied at a much-reduced rate. This bill slid by in the Senate, 49-0. It did not, however, reach the floor of the House for a vote.

**YES was the pro-conservation vote on the passage of this bill.**

### **13** Mercury Switches

This bill, **SB 550**, was introduced by Senator Don Thomas and provided for the reduction of mercury in the environment through two methods. One method required the collection and recovery of mercury switches that are found in junked vehicles. The other method provided for a mercury minimization plan. The amendment in question removed the bounty/incentive for the steel recyclers to remove the switches. With the amendment, the bill would instead make it a misdemeanor not to remove the switches and would require a certificate to accompany each junked car stating the switches had been removed. Concerns with this included that voluntary programs do not work as well as incentive-based programs. And of course, there is no way to enforce the removal of the switches. The amendment to SB 550

barely passed 25-24. The bill then passed the Senate but did not make it to the House floor for a vote.

**NO was the pro-conservation vote on the amendment to gut the bill.**

### **14** Tax Credit for Teleworking

**HB 194** was popularly known as the Telework Tax Credit, remaining from last session, and had been held over since 2005. Introduced by Representative Chuck Martin, this tax credit would be presented to a business, at up to \$1200 per participating employee, to help placate the cost of creating a telework office for said employee. The bills intends to offer a non-traditional method of coping with traffic. Customary methods to deal with traffic include highly intensive and expensive strategies, like building and widening roads, that ultimately address a 3-hour issue 24-hours a day. The Telework Tax Credit, however, more suitable and cost-efficiently addresses the 3-hour issue of the number of commuters on the road during peak hours. This bill passed the Senate 46-2.

**YES was the pro-conservation vote on the passage of this bill.**

### **15** The Litter Bill

**HB 1320**, by Representative Lynn Smith, was entitled the "Comprehensive Litter Prevention and Abatement Act of 2006" and provided increased definition of littering, infractions, enforcement responsibility, and penalty. The bill consolidated statutes that made enforcement confusing and difficult. It also offered provisions on the dumping of different types of material, including "egregious" waste (solid and hazardous waste), and on dumping or littering in Georgia's waterways. The amendment in question weakened the bill by striking a provision pertaining to the criminality of dumping egregious litter and removing penalties of littering from commercial or agricultural vehicles. The amendment passed 32-21. HB 1320 then passed the Senate.

**NO was the pro-conservation vote on this amendment to weaken the bill.**

# Votes

## SENATE

**+** Pro-Conservation  
**-** Anti-Conservation  
**NV** Absent/Not Voting  
**Blank** No Score/Not in Office

Senator	Party	District	%	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
David Adelman	D	42	100	+	+	+	+	NV	+	+	+	+	NV	+	NV	NV	+	+
Don Balfour	R	9	54	-	NV	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	NV	+
Robert Brown	D	26	92	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	NV	+	+	+	+	NV	+
John Bulloch	R	11	42	NV	-	-	NV	-	-	+	+	+	-	NV	+	-	+	-
Gloria Butler	D	55	80	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+
Casey Cagle	R	49	50	-	-	-	NV	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-
Joseph Carter	R	13	36	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	NV	-	+	-
Ronnie Chance	R	16	50	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	-
Jeff Chapman	R	3	54	+	-	NV	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	NV	+	-
John Douglas	R	17	53	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-
Vincent Fort	D	39	92	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	NV	+	NV	+	+	+	+
Greg Goggans	R	7	50	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	NV	-	+	-	+	-
Tim Golden	D	8	64	+	-	+	+	+	NV	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	-
John Grant	R	25	54	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	NV	NV	-	+	-	+	-
Bill Hamrick	R	30	67	-	+	NV	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	NV	NV
Ed Harbison	D	15	79	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	NV	+	+	-	+	+
Seth Harp	R	29	73	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+
Bill Heath	R	31	50	-	-	-	+	NV	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	-
Steve Henson	D	41	80	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+
Jack Hill	R	4	50	-	+	NV	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	NV	NV	+
Judson Hill	R	32	53	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+
George Hooks	D	14	46	NV	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	NV	-	-	+	-	+	-
Ralph Hudgens	R	47	54	-	-	NV	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	NV	+	-	+	-
Eric Johnson	R	1	45	-	-	-	+	NV	+	+	-	+	NV	-	+	NV	NV	-
Emanuel Jones	D	10	77	+	NV	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	NV	+	-	+	+
Brian Kemp	R	46	47	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	-
Michael MBremen	D	12	53	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-
Steen Miles	D	43	79	+	+	-	NV	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
Dan Moody	R	56	60	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-

2005 2006

**Absences and abstentions have no  
negative effect on scores.**

\* Ed Tarver of District 22 left office after the 2005 Session;  
Charles Walker became Senator of District 22.

Senator	Party	District	%	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Jeff Mullis	R	53	43	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	NV	+	+	-
Chip Pearson	R	54	53	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-
J.B. Powell	D	23	43	-	-	-	+	-	-	NV	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-
Kasim Reed	D	35	87	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Chip Rogers	R	21	57	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	NV	+	-	+	+
Nancy Schaefer	R	50	50	-	-	+	+	-	NV	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	-
Mitch Seabaugh	R	26	50	-	NV	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-
Valencia Seay	D	34	86	+	-	+	+	+	NV	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+
David Shafer	R	48	57	-	NV	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-
Preston Smith	R	52	46	-	-	-	NV	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	NV	-	+	+
Terrell Starr	D	44	38	+	-	NV	+	-	NV	NV	+	NV	-	-	NV	NV	NV	-
Cecil Staton	R	18	53	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-
Bill Stephens	R	27	50	-	-	NV	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	-
Doug Stoner	D	6	75	+	+	+	-	NV	+	+	+	+	-	+	NV	-	NV	+
Ed Tarver*	D	22	50								+	+	-	-	+	-	+	-
Horacena Tate	D	38	93	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	NV	+	+	+	+	+	+
Regina Thomas	D	2	60	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-
Don Thomas	R	54	57	-	-	-	NV	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-
Curt Thompson	D	5	92	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	NV	+	NV	NV	+	+
Steve Thompson	D	33	54	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	NV	NV	+	+	+	-
Ross Tolleson	R	20	58	NV	-	NV	NV	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	+
Renee Unterman	R	45	64	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	NV	+	-	+	+
Charles Walker*	D	22	71	+	+	-	+	-	+	+								
Dan Weber	R	40	50	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	NV	-	-	+	+	NV	NV
Jim Whitehead	R	24	53	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-
John Wiles	R	37	47	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	-
Tommie Williams	R	19	57	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	NV
Sam Zamarripa	D	36	100	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

**2005    2006**

# HOW TO Get Involved



If your legislator scored well, thank them. If they scored poorly, express your concern. Find out who represents you at [www.gavoters.com/gcvlegislativeagenda.html](http://www.gavoters.com/gcvlegislativeagenda.html).



Join the Georgia Environmental Action Network to receive action alerts on Georgia's most pressing environmental issues. Join us in making your voice heard.



Join and Volunteer with Georgia Conservation Voters. Visit our website at [www.gavoters.com/volunteers.html](http://www.gavoters.com/volunteers.html) to volunteer with GCV and help us elect a Legislature that will put Georgians first.



Vote for pro-environmental candidates at the local, state, and federal level. Look to our website, [www.gavoters.com](http://www.gavoters.com), for GCV-endorsed candidates.



GEORGIA CONSERVATION VOTERS

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