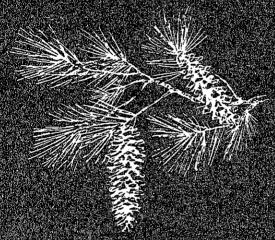
The Maine League of Conservation Voters

Environmental Voting Record of the 115th Maine Legislature (1991 and 1992)



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

FALL 1992

Deseriotic



ATV's in State Parks

House Roll Call #23

LD 378 An Act to Prohibit the Use of All-terrain Vehicles in State Parks.

House Motion: Accept Majority Ought Not to Pass

Report

Correct Vote: NO

House Vote: April 4, 1991; Yes 101, No 37, Absent

13; Motion Prevailed

Description: This bill would have prohibited the use of ali-terrain vehicles in Maine's state parks. The bill was proposed in response to the establishment of an experimental ATV trail in Mount Blue State Park. The bill was killed by the Legislature.



Smoking in Public Places

House Roll Call #107

LD 1134 An Act to Protect Citizens from the Effects of Environmental Tobacco Smoke

House Motion: Accept Majority Ought to Pass Report as Amended

Correct Vote: YES

House Vote: June 5, 1991; Yes 45, No 101, Absent 5;

Motion Failed

Description: This bill proposed a general ban on smoking in enclosed areas of public places. The bill was amended in committee to narrow the ban. The amended bill exempted restaurants, taverns, private offices, small stores, civic auditoriums and several other types of establishments. The bill was killed by the Legislature.



■ Solid Waste/Plastic Bags

House Roll Call #88

LD 1166 An Act to Allow the Use of Either Paper or Plastic Bags at Point of Retail Sale

House Motion: Indefinitely Postpone Bill and Papers

Correct Vote: YES

House Vote: May 30, 1991; Yes 57, No 82, Absent 12;

Motion Failed

Description: This bill proposed repealing the law requiring retailers to use paper bags unless plastic bags are requested by the customer. The original law was designed to give a preference to paper bags over plastic bags because paper is derived from a renewable natural resource and results in less of a solid waste disposal problem. The bill was amended to allow retailers to freely use plastic bags provided that they had a collection receptacle available for the recycling of the bags. This bill was one of several attempts in the 115th Maine Legislature to repeal and undermine Maine's tough solid waste laws enacted only a few years earlier. The bill was enacted into law.



Solid Waste/Plastic Rings

House Roll Call #124

Senate Roll Call #65

LD 842 An Act to Modify the Ban on Plastic Rings and Other Plastic Holding Devices

House Motion: Enactment of Emergency Legislation

Correct Vote: NO

House Vote: June 6, 1991; Yes 99, No 47, Absent 5; Motion Failed (2/3 vote required for emergency

Senate Motion: Passage to be Engrossed

Correct Vote: NO

Senate Vote: June 10, 1991; Yes 26, No 7, Absent 2;

Motion Prevailed.

Description: This bill undermined the State's ban on "sixpack yokes" and other plastic devices used to hold beverage containers together. 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. This bill delayed the ban, which was to have taken affect on July 1, 1991. It provided manufacturers with broad exemptions from the original ban. The bill was passed and signed into law.



Land Acquisition Bond

House Roll Call #162

Senate Roll Call #73

LD 618 An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$50,000,000 for Land for Maine's Future

House Motion: Enactment

Correct Vote: YES

House Vote: June 12, 1991; Yes 98, No 49, Absent 4;

Motion Prevailed

Senate Motion: Enactment

Correct Vote: YES

Senate Vote: June 13, 1991; Yes 20, No 13, Absent 2; Motion Failed (2/3 vote required for bond issues)

Description: The bill proposed a \$50,000,000 land acquisition bond for public purchase of important recreational, scenic and wildlife lands. The amount was reduced in committee to \$5,000,000. The bond was passed by the Legislature, but was not approved by Maine voters in the fall election.



Motor Vehicle Efficiency

House Roll Call #300

LD 1709 An Act to Promote Motor Vehicle Efficiency

House Motion: Accept Majority Ought Not to Pass

Report

Correct Vote: NO

House Vote: February 11, 1992; Yes 89, No 53,

Absent 9; Motion Prevailed

Description: This bill proposed replacing the 5% sales tax on certain motor vehicles with a variable tax rate of 0% to 10% based on the fuel efficiency of the vehicle relative to others in its size class. The purpose of the variable rate is to encourage the purchase of the most fuel efficient vehicles within each size class, thereby reducing air pollution and the consumption of gasoline. The bill was killed by the Legislature.

n of Votes



Citizen Enforcement

House Roll Call #306

LD 1551 An Act to Supplement State Environmental
Enforcement

House Motion: Accept Majority Ought Not to Pass

Report

Correct Vote: NO

House Vote: February 18, 1992; Yes 102, No 38, Absent 10. Excused 1: Motion Prevailed

Description: This bill would have allowed a Maine resident to initiate a legal enforcement action for an alleged violation of laws protecting the environment and the State's natural resources. This bill represented the most recent of many efforts to give citizens this right. Like proceeding initiatives, this bill was killed by the Legislature.



LURC Subdivision

House Roll Call #351

LD 2126 An Act to Amend the Subdivision Laws within the Jurisdiction of the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission

House Motion: Enactment

Correct Vote: NO

House Vote: March 17, 1992; Yes 92, No 44, Absent

15: Motion Prevailed

Description: This bill changed the definition of subdivision used by the Land Use Regulation Commission in order to exempt the large-lot subdivision proposals of several developers from LURC review. Previously, the Legislature had closed a loophole in LURC's statute which had allowed large-lot subdivisions to occur without environmental review. This bill will result in the subdivision of over 10,000 acres of Maine forest land. The bill was passed by the Legislature and signed into law.



Motor Vehicle Emissions

House Roll Call #395

Senate Roll Call #47

LD 2308 An Act to Establish the Motor Vehicle Emission Inspection Program

House Motion: Enactment

Correct Vote: YES.

House Vote: March 26, 1992; Yes 77, No 69, Absent

5; Motion Prevailed Senate Motion: Enactment

Correct Vote: YES Senate Vote: March 26, 1992; Yes 24, No 10, Absent

1; Motion Prevailed

Description: This bill proposed the establishment of a biennial motor vehicle emission testing program to reduce the amount of air pollution in the state. The program will help to bring Maine in compliance with the Federal Clean Air Act and reduce the human health risks caused by air pollution. The bill was amended but retained its primary provisions. It was enacted into law.



Criminal Penalties

House Roll Call #406

LD 1654 An Act to Facilitate Criminal Enforcement of the Environmental Laws

House Motion: Ought Not to Pass Committee Report

"C"

Correct Vote: NO

House Vote: March 27, 1992; Yes 91, No 53, Absent

7; Motion Prevailed

Description: This bill proposed strengthening criminal enforcement of Maine's environmental laws. It would have facilitated the prosecution of environmental crimes and increased criminal penalties. The bill was killed by the Legislature.



Energy Standards

Senate Roll Call #11

LD 361 An Act to Expand the Applicability of Certain Energy Standards

Senate Motion: Shall this Bill Become Law Notwith-

standing the Objections of the Governor

Correct Vote: YES

Senate Vote: January 7, 1992; Yes 19, No 13, Absent

3; Motion Failed, Veto Sustained

Description: This bill would have expanded Maine's energy building standards to homes where the owner is involved in the construction of the house. The bill was amended in committee to allow a continued exemption for houses that are actually physically built by the owner. The bill was passed by the Legislature, but vetoed by the Governor. The Legislature failed to override the veto.



Coal-Fired Power Plants

Senate Roll Call #36

LD 2288 An Act to Require a Total Least-cost Energy Plan and to Establish a Moratorium on Fossil-fuel Fired Electric Generation Facilities in This State

Senate Motion: To Recede from the Ought Not to Pass Report and Concur to: Passage to be Engrossed as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"

Correct Vote: YES

Senate Vote: March 18, 1992; Yes 15, No 19, Absent

1; Motion Failed

Description: The original bill called for the establishment of a least-cost energy plan that gives preference to generating facilities that do not result in significant pollution problems. It would have placed a moratorium on the construction of new fossil-fuel fired electric plants until 1993 to give the Public Utilities Commission the opportunity to study the need for these new facilities. The bill was amended in committee to simply place a moratorium on the construction of coal-fired power plants. The bill was killed by the Legislature.

1991 - 1992 Maine Legislative MLCV Maine Lead P.O. Box 5271

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Environmental Voting Record

Ue of Conservation Voters Augusta, Maine 04332-5271

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MILLS, Jeffrey N.] Oxford	80	€ La er mentament	*	- (1000)/000/1500	*	· 💠	+	*
≃EARSON, Michael, Ω Penobscot	60	- 83	67	A	4	+		46
PRAY, Charles P. Penobscot	20	83	89	eto kuntopi Viro		+	es falación de	PROTECTION OF A TAX
RCH Dönzid Lij Cumberland	40.				19	•	*	4+
SUMMERS, Charles E. Cumberland FHERIAULT, Raynold	20		* 5057***	en e			(account the second	4
Argostook FITCOMB. Bonnie L.	20	50	40		4	•	250	
Cumberland	80	83	ar protosymbol		+ Newnstan	÷	-(-	Antari (reference)
Oxford VOSE, Harry L.	40	§ 33.5	50		1 1	2 3	A	A SOUTH OF SOUTH
Washington Wessier, Charles M.	40	General Company	80	ENER IS	+	· •		· Cherry
Franklin	40	17	20 ;	300	· 图	图象的		#*6 @ s

KEY

+ = pro-environmental vote

· = anti-environmental vote

A = absent

E = excused from voting

v = vacani

(S) = Representative running for State Senate

Legislator not running for re-election.

Was not legislator during session.

Rating (% pro votes): The rating is the percentage of pro-environmental votes cast by each lagislator.

Absences: Unexcused absences are counted as anti-environmental votes. Excused absences (E or V on chart) are not figured into a legislator's rating.

Paired Votes: Legislators may "pair" their vote with the opposite vote of another legislator. In the official legislative tally, paired votes are not counted. In these charts and ratings, however, paired votes are used.

SUMMARY OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

House Jacques, Chai Anderson Coles Gould Hoglund Lord Marsh Mitchell Powers Simpson	20 50 20 20 10 60 90 60		Titcomb, <i>Chair</i> Baldacci Ludwig	80 40 40
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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 rollicall votes from which to choose). There were several votes from which to choose). There were several votes on sidered during the past legislative session which are not included in these ratings because rollicall votes were not taken on the bills.

Any vote by itself may not be fair benchmark of a legislator's environmental record. However, the percentage of pro-anvironmental 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-environmentalizates. 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, apro-environment 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, detailing environmentally damaging proposals and convincing other legislators to vote correctly are ortical activities in which some legislators are lar more active than others or environmental issues.

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 of disapproval of the environmental performance of legislators is to communicate with them directly. When the legislature is not in session, call or write them 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 0:4333.

Two useful publications Seriale 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, P.O. Box 17534, Portland, Maine 04101.

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

\$			
Enclosed is my contribution of:\$100	\$50\$25	\$10 Other\$	
I would like to volunteer to help MLCV		••	
Name		Telephone	
Address			
			ration Voters: