



GRANITE STATE
CONSERVATION VOTERS ALLIANCE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GSCVA RELEASES ENVIRONMENTAL SCORECARD ON STATE SENATE

*AVERAGE SENATE SCORE IS A FAILING GRADE: 54 PERCENT
LAUNCHES AD CAMPAIGN ENCOURAGING CHALLENGERS TO FILE FOR OFFICE*

Concord, NH: On the first day of filing period for candidates to run for State office, The Granite State Conservation Voters Alliance (GSCVA) released its *2005-2006 Environmental Scorecard for the New Hampshire State Senate*. In addition, GSCVA ran ads in several New Hampshire newspapers pointing out the failing grade and voting record of specific Senators, encouraging interested challengers to run against them.

GSCVA's Environmental Scorecard reports roll call votes recorded on key conservation issues during the 2005-2006 session. Roll call votes were chosen to be included in the scorecard if they were deemed "indicator" votes of the Senate's commitment to protecting and conserving New Hampshire's environment and quality of life by GSCVA's Board of Directors. The scorecard tells the story of individual Senators commitment to conservation issues.

The average score for the New Hampshire Senate as a whole was 54 percent. The average score for Republicans in the Senate was 36 percent. The average score for Democrats was 90 percent.

"We are disappointed in the low score of the Senate overall, and especially the low scores among Senate leadership," said Jim O'Brien, Executive Director. "It is surprising that so many State Senators deliberately voted against conserving our natural resources and protecting our environment. The message for our elected officials is clear, if you vote wrong on the environment, you need to lose your seat."

While the overall score in the Senate was low, there were some bright spots. An overwhelming majority of Senators voted to reduce the amount of mercury emitted by NH power plants. Also, a bill that gives municipalities greater control over groundwater withdrawals passed with bi-partisan support, as did a moratorium on the burning of construction and demolition debris.

The state's popular Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) continued to be severely underfunded. Senate leadership worked diligently to defeat legislation that would bring meaningful funding to the program. The Senate also defeated efforts to enact a speed limit on NH's lakes, increase funding for exotic aquatic weed eradication and control, and a resolution in support of restoring commuter rail service to the state.

"We hope that this scorecard serves a wake up call to individuals who want to make a difference for New Hampshire's environment," said Rick Russman, Chair of GSCVA. "By changing a few votes and electing more conservation minded individuals, we can have a Senate that consistently votes pro-conservation. We are a bi-partisan organization and encourage people of both political parties to file to run for office against those with a proven track record of voting against our environment."

CONTINUED

GSCVA ran ads in four New Hampshire newspapers today calling attention to the environmental voting records of Senators Tom Eaton, Robert Clegg, Robert Boyce and Bob Flanders. The ads encourage people interested in running for Senate to contact GSCVA.

“Polls show that NH citizens want to preserve open space, have greater transportation options, reduce speed on our lakes, and clean up our water,” concluded O’Brien. “The time has come for NH to have a Senate that works in a constructive manner to find solutions to these problems, rather than be a roadblock to progress.

GSCVA will release its scorecard on the New Hampshire House of Representatives later this month

Text of the newspaper ads are below.

The Granite State Conservation Voters Alliance is a bi-partisan, statewide, non-profit organization dedicated to protecting New Hampshire's environment by making it a priority for our elected leaders. GSCVA was established with the advice and encouragement of many of New Hampshire's conservation leaders to perform a critical role – hold state legislators accountable for their votes and inform the public about key environmental issues under debate by the legislature. For more information, please visit www.VoteConservation.org

NASHUA TELEGRAPH

CONCORD MONITOR

**Senator Bob Clegg
Gets an “F”**

For His Record on Protecting NH’s Environment

Voted Against Speed Limits on NH’s Lakes

**Voted Against Priority Funding to Protect
our Land and Open Space**

Voted Against Protecting our Groundwater

Don’t Reward Failure

The deadline to file for State Senate is June 16th

Interested? Call us at 746-2331



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For the complete NH Senate Environmental
Scorecard visit

VoteConservation.org

**Senator Bob Flanders
Gets an “F”**

For His Record on Protecting NH’s Environment

Voted Against Speed Limits on NH’s Lakes

**Voted Against Priority Funding to Protect our
Land and Open Space**

**Voted Against Supporting Efforts to Restore
Commuter Rail**

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Paid for by the Granite State Conservation Voters Action Fund
Merle Schotanus, Treasurer

**Senator Robert Boyce
Gets an “F”**

For His Record on Protecting NH’s Environment

Voted Against Speed Limits on NH’s Lakes

**Voted Against Reducing Mercury
Emissions**

**Voted Against Funding to Protect our Land
and Open Space**

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Paid for by the Granite State Conservation Voters Action Fund
Merle Schotanus Treasurer

LACONIA CITIZEN

Paid for by the Granite State Conservation Voters Action Fund
Merle Schotanus, Treasurer

**Senator Tom Eaton
Gets an “F”**

For His Record on Protecting NH’s Environment

Voted Against Speed Limits on NH’s Lakes

**Voted Against funding to Protect our Land
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KEENE SENTINEL