



A CONSERVATION VOTER

Erwin Maddrey knows what he likes. A retired CEO of Delta Woodside, the makers of Duck Head clothing, he and his wife, Nancy, have lived in Greenville for over thirty years. They also enjoy their lake house in the North Carolina mountains.

Growing up in Winston-Salem, NC, Maddrey spent his summers at his grandparents' farm in High Point, where he gained his first sense of the importance of respecting and valuing the land. A lifelong environmentalist, he became involved in conservation issues in South Carolina because of his good friend, Brad Wyche, Upstate Forever Executive Director and CVSC board member.

Erwin now chairs Upstate Forever's Board. "It is so wonderful to see how the ideas that Upstate Forever espouses have started to become part of the consciousness of the general community," he states in a recent article. "Green buildings are starting to pop up across the area. Governments and organizations are starting to plan developments and write ordinances that take the environment into consideration - but our work is far from done."

Maddrey acknowledges the economic downturn as one of the biggest challenges facing the conservation movement. "The recent drought has brought the issue of water to the fore-front, and we've got to retain donors and keep water at the top of everyone's list despite the financial crisis," says Maddrey. He cites the timeliness of Upstate Forever's focus on the Saluda and Reedy rivers and he mentions the seriousness of the loss of Conservation Bank funding. "How do you manage growth in the Upstate, when forests and farms are being cleared and paved over at a rate of ninety acres per day."

When he is not traveling to board meetings, Maddrey enjoys relaxing at his place on Lake Summit. "I like to do nothing but sit and enjoy the environment around me," says Maddrey with a smile, "I just love the outdoors."

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

LOBBY TEAM TUESDAYS RETURN!

Practice your activism at the State House during the 2009 legislative session.

Lobby teams are now bigger and better than ever in this, our fourth year of encouraging concerned citizens to engage their legislators on conservation issues. Come any Tuesday that fits your schedule and we will guide you through a day at the State House. You will have the opportunity to observe a legislative session in action, speak to legislators, attend hearings, and reinforce the message of our Common Agenda.



SAVE THE DATE

6th Annual Conservation Lobby Day on Tuesday, April 28th

During this all day event, hundreds of conservationists from across the state will gather at the State House to speak with legislators. The day ends with an early evening old-fashioned oyster roast at the historic Seibel's House with elected leaders.

EMAIL ACTION ALERTS

Stay up-to-date on what's going on at the State House.

Visit our website and sign up for the email "Hotlist" for weekly updates on legislation.

For more information, please contact Debbie Parker at 803-799-0716 or email Debbie@conservationvotersofsc.org.

The Conservation Voter

CONSERVATION VOTERS OF SOUTH CAROLINA

EDUCATION. ACCOUNTABILITY. RESULTS.

WILL SENATORS TAKE THE FIRST STEP?



In a time when headlines carry ominous warnings about the current economic outlook, it is fortunate that not all progress carries a high price tag. When it comes to protecting our environment, simply improving how government performs is the logical first step.

This year, bipartisan Senate leaders are promoting three Common Agenda issues that impact the quality of life for all South Carolinians - already the lobbyists who represent certain 'business' interests are fighting to keep the status quo.

The good news is that these initiatives do not require new taxes, new buildings or new personnel. At a time when South Carolinians are cutting their personal expenditures, the least we can ask of our elected leaders is to step up to protect those qualities about South Carolina that add value to our daily lives - a clean and healthy environment for our children and grandchildren to enjoy and cherish.



WATERMATTERS

When it comes to managing our most precious water resources, the **FIRST STEP** is to adopt a reasonable plan for allocating water use. Clean, abundant water is the lifeblood of South Carolina's economy and way of life. Jobs, communities, industry, recreation, tourism and productive fisheries depend on the availability of water. It is frankly astounding that South Carolina currently has no permitting system in place to manage the withdrawal of water from our lakes and rivers.

Atlanta could literally suck the Savannah River dry because the only permit needed by industries, utilities or large agricultural users is for the cleanliness of the water returned to the stream. Senators reached an impasse last year when business interests insisted that they should be able to take up to eighty percent of a river's annual flow.

Senator Wes Hayes (R/York County) introduced the "Fair Share Water Bill", S.275, to require a permit from the Department of Health & Environmental Control (DHEC) for all surface water withdrawals of three million gallons or more a month. His bill would maintain seasonal flows to protect the biological, chemical, and physical integrity of our surface waters and it would protect existing water users. Other sponsors are Senators Shebeen (D/Kershaw), Courson (R/Richland), Leventis (D/Sumter), Anderson (D/Greenville), Rankin (R/Horry), Grooms (R/Berkeley), Lourie (D/Richland), Mulvaney (R/Lancaster), Bryant (R/Anderson), Davis (R/Beaufort), Coleman (D/Fairfield), Rose (R/Dorchester) and Campsen (R/Charleston). Sen. Paul Campbell (R/Berkeley) has countered with S.452 that would allow 80% of our rivers' flow to be consumed by industries and utilities.

WASTING SOUTH CAROLINA

When it comes to taking responsibility for the trash that we throw away, the **FIRST STEP** is to ensure that we open only enough landfill capacity to meet the needs of South Carolinians. Legislation adopted over seventeen years ago attempted to restrict the permitting of solid waste capacity to a "demonstration of need." The regulations used by DHEC have instead allowed South Carolina to become the "nation's pay-toilet." Landfill capacity is now twice what South Carolina generates. Almost thirty percent of the total waste buried here last year came from other states.

Senator Gerald Malloy (D/Darlington) has filed a Landfill Moratorium, S.324, to reduce further unnecessary degradation of our environment by postponing the permitting of new or expanded mega-dumps for two years while a recently appointed DHEC taskforce re-writes regulations. He is joined by Senators Leventis (D/Sumter), Lourie (D/Richland), Bryant (R/Anderson), Courson (R/Richland), Scott (D/Richland), Williams (D/Marion) and Davis (R/Beaufort).

The solid waste industry has hired over a dozen lobbyists to work against a moratorium.

("Will Legislators take the First Step?" continued inside...)



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CHANGING DHEC

(continued from front page)

When it comes to protecting our clean air and clean water, the FIRST STEP is to change DHEC to make it truly accountable.

The agency's highest priority should be protecting the health of our citizens and environment. Unfortunately a confusing management structure and convoluted appeals process have resulted in numerous failures to protect clean air and clean water. Citizens are outraged about the agency's inability to stand up against special interests or unwarranted staff decisions. As Board Chair Bo Aughtry stated, "the failure of the DHEC Board to reject the staff decision to issue an air permit for the (coal) plant is proof that it is time to change DHEC. If all this board does is act as an application approval process, then we are not doing what the Governor asked of us." Ultimately, reforming DHEC is about sustaining South Carolina's quality of life and economic prosperity.

Senators Phil Leventis (D/Sumter) and John Courson (R/Richland) filed S.384 to eliminate the DHEC Board and designate a Secretary of Health and Environmental Control, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The bill would create two separate review panels to hear permit appeals of health and environmental matters. Changing DHEC will ensure accountability and science based review of department decisions. Other sponsors include Senators Shebeen (D/Kershaw), Reese (D/Spartanburg), Matthews (D/Orangeburg) and Thomas (R/Greenville).

At the hearing on the bill, the SC Manufacturers Alliance opposed the bill, defended DHEC and stated that "most industries that apply for permits are entitled to them".

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We extend our gratitude to this list of donors to Conservation Voters of South Carolina and Conservation Voters of South Carolina Education Fund. This list reflects all of our new and renewing members for this past year. If you feel your name has been accidentally omitted, please contact our Development Director, Bruce Lawrence at 803-799-0716 or bruce@conservationvotersofsc.org, immediately so that we may correct our records. Thank you to all who contribute and support our work!

A Letter from the



KICKING THE COSTLY COAL HABIT

As the conservation community continues to oppose our state's backwards march to costly coal, we are reminded how closely our fate is linked to federal energy decisions. We are fortunate that since 2007, Conservation Voters has been working with the national League of Conservation Voters to make clean energy choices a priority for both national and state leaders.

Our collaboration began by taking advantage of South Carolina's early presidential primaries and it continues today with a focus on opportunities "to repower, refuel and rebuild America." Although we have some differences with the recent Energy Policy Report issued by the Public Utility Review Committee, we concur with the Committee's conclusion that South Carolinians are extremely wasteful users of energy.

Ultimately consumers are more vulnerable the longer our utilities delay making energy efficiency and renewables their top priority. South Carolinians literally cannot afford "just one more coal plant" and we are working to ensure that federal climate change legislation includes mitigation for the higher energy costs that low income households will face under a carbon tax or cap.

We applaud John Frampton and the DNR Board and Governor Sanford for taking strong positions opposing Santee Cooper's proposed Pee Dee coal plant on grounds that the health risks are too high, that new federal policies have changed the regulatory scene and that the economic downturn is reducing growth and demand projections.

And we agree with Ron Calcaterra, CEO of the Central Electric Power Cooperative, when he recently called for utilities to make the best use of all existing electricity generating resources to delay building more and expensive power plants for as long as possible. It makes eminent sense to plan and share future power supplies so that we build only what we need to power South Carolinians' energy needs.

One thing is for sure: kicking the costly coal habit will take national leadership. We have only a short window of opportunity to reduce carbon and push South Carolina down the road to a clean energy future. Passing strong, meaningful climate change legislation will be the defining moment of our generation. We need your help.

Ann J. Timberlake

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