



NEWS RELEASE

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2007 CONSERVATION GRADES ARE IN FOR LEGISLATORS

Richmond, VA... The Virginia League of Conservation Voters (VALCV) today released its 8th Edition of the **Legislative Conservation Scorecard** announcing the conservation voting records of state legislators. This publication rates individual legislators on a series of important conservation votes cast during the 2007 General Assembly session. It also presents a total of each legislator's conservation votes from 2000 when VALCV was formed through the 2007 session with the percentage of "right" votes on conservation issues.

"The Virginia League of Conservation Voters is committed to providing an accountability tool for environmentally concerned voters in the form of an annual Legislative Conservation Scorecard," said Lisa Guthrie, Executive Director of the Virginia League. "Citizens care more about how their legislators vote on important conservation bills than whether they have a partisan R or D behind their names."

The Virginia League commends the two senators and eight delegates with 100% scores. These ten Legislative Heroes are Senators Houck (SD 17), and Locke (SD 2) and Delegates Athey (HD 18), Frederick (HD 52), Lingamfelter (HD 31), R. Marshall (HD 13), Morgan (HD 98), Nutter (HD 7), Shuler (HD 12) and Wittman (HD 99.) Another 54 legislators achieved scores between 75 and 99%. A significant improvement in this year's Scorecard is the lack of any 0% scores and the fact that no legislator scored below 25%. The House average scores were substantially higher this year than in 2006.

Average Annual Scores:

	<u>House</u>	<u>Senate</u>
2006	56%	54%
2007	73%	55%

The scores measured committee and floor votes on a wide range of important conservation issues including the Citizen Environmental Board Consolidation (SB 1403), the Electric Utility Restructuring (HB 3068, SB 1416) Right to Deny a Rezoning (SB 817), SLAPP suit protection (SB 1250), and Offshore Drilling (SB 1396). "Extra credit" was also issued to legislators who patroned conservation-friendly bills that VALCV supported.

VALCV works throughout the session to inform the legislators and the public about legislation affecting the environment. Legislators are informed of VALCV's position on specific bills before they vote. Memos and personal meetings serve as notice that the bill may be included in the Scorecard. At the end of the session, VALCV selects bills for the Scorecard which illustrate a clear distinction between those legislators who support the conservation position and those who do not.

The Virginia League of Conservation Voters serves as the nonpartisan political action arm of the state's conservation community. Our mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of life of all Virginians by making conservation a top priority with Virginia's elected officials, political candidates, and voters.

(The full scorecard is available at the bottom of our homepage; www.valcv.org) ###