

2009 Senate Vote Tracker Descriptions:

(A.) Definition of Renewable Energy ([S.232](#), Sen. Greg Ryberg)

The Senate debated S.232, a bill relating to the definition of the renewable energy and the state energy plan, and **defeated in a vote of 23-20 Sen. Ryberg's amendment** that would have added nuclear fuel reprocessing to the state's energy plan. The conservation community would like to thank **Sen. Phil Leventis** for his leadership and tireless efforts to defeat the Ryberg amendment. After the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee amendment was adopted, S.232 was further amended to require the State Energy Office to submit its annual state energy action plan to the Public Utility Review Committee, the House LCI Committee and the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. S.232 was adopted as amended by the Senate and House and ratified in May 2009.

2009 House Vote Tracker Descriptions:

(A.) Farm to School Act ([H.3179](#)) Rep. Dan Cooper) PRIORITY

This bill encourages school districts to purchase locally and regionally produced foods in order to improve child nutrition and strengthen local farm economies. H.3179 **passed the House** in February 2009 in a **62-1** vote and was stalled in the Senate Education Committee in March.

(B.) SUPERB Fund ([H.3270](#), Rep. Jeff Duncan) PRIORITY

H.3270 establishes new annual renewal fees at the request of industry for the registration of underground storage tanks, in order to generate money for the State Underground Petroleum Environmental Response Bank (SUPERB) account. H.3270 **received approval in the House** in a **92-5** vote. This bill stalled in the Senate Medical Affairs Committee in March.

(C.) Conservation Bank Funding (3/10/09)- PRIORITY

The current economic crisis resulted in drastically cutting the Bank's 2008-2009 funding (originally estimated at \$15-20 million) by more than 75%- more than any other state agency. In March the **House voted 98-10** to protect operational funding for the Conservation Bank. (The 10 members who voted against funding the Bank were Representatives: Eric Bedingfield, Dan Cooper, Marion Frye, Dan Hamilton, Lanny Littlejohn, Joey Millwood, Wendy Nanney, Tommy Stringer, Thad Viers and Annette Young.) The conservation community extends a special thank you for the leadership of: **Speaker Bobby Harrell, Majority Leader Kenny Bingham, Minority Leader Harry Ott and Representatives Jay Lucas, Jim Merrill, Mike Pitts, Bakari Sellers, James Smith, Mac Toole, David Umphlett and Tom Young.**

In late April, the Senate voted unanimously to protect the \$200,000 already in the budget to operate the Conservation Bank and to **add \$2 million to the Bank** for land protection, and the House concurred. We'd like to thank **Senators Hugh Leatherman, John Courson, Yancey McGill, Glenn McConnell and Chip Campsen** for their dedication to protecting our state's natural heritage for future generations.

2010 House Vote Tracker Descriptions:

(D.) Conservation Bank Funding (3/17/10)- PRIORITY

The conservation community would like to thank **Representatives Kenny Bingham, Jim Merrill, David Umphlett and Tom Young**, who during the House's budget deliberations worked together in an attempt to redirect \$2 million in funding to the Conservation Bank. Unfortunately, their attempt failed in a [vote of 68-45](#) with 8 not voting. We'd like to thank all of the 45 Representatives who voted in favor of the additional funding: **Jimmy Bales, Nathan Ballentine, Bruce Bannister, Jim Battle, Kenny Bingham, Don Bowen, Joan Brady, Boyd Brown, Robert Brown, Alan Clemmons, Bill Clyburn, Joe Daning, Chandra Dillard, Shannon Erickson, Laurie Funderburk, Jerry Govan, Bobby Harrell, Jim Harrison, George Hearn, Bill**

Herbkersman, Lonnie Hosey, Anne Hutto, Joe Jefferson, John King, Chip Limehouse, Deborah Long, Phillip Lowe, Jay Lucas, Jim Merrill, Vida Miller, Dennis Moss, Steve Moss, Denny Neilson, Mike Pitts, Tim Scott, Bakari Sellers, Gary Simrill, G. Murrell Smith, James Smith, Leon Stavrinakis, Michael Thompson, Mac Toole, David Umphlett, Ted Vick and Tom Young. The House ultimately passed a budget recommending \$207,000 for the Conservation Bank— just enough to keep the doors open.

(E.) Conservation Bank Death Clause Removal ([S.903](#), Sen. Glenn McConnell/[H.4269](#)- Rep. Bill Herbkersman) **PRIORITY**

Column E on the House Vote Tracker lists not a floor vote, but rather co-sponsors of a priority bill that protects Conservation Bank funding in tough budget years. In 2009, the Bank received the largest reduction of funding of any state agency. According to current state law, any time there are across-the-board cuts to state agencies, Conservation Bank funding is reduced to zero. These bills would remove this "death clause" and keep future budget cuts to the Bank in line with other state agencies.

H.4269 Bill Co-sponsors: Herbkersman, Wylie, D.C. Smith, Umphlett, Ballentine, J.R. Smith, Limehouse, Lowe, Bingham, Merrill, Toole, R.L. Brown, T.R. Young, Stewart, McLeod, G.A. Brown, Hiott, Rice, J.E. Smith, Duncan, Agnew, Hutto, Clemmons, Chalk, Clyburn, Hosey, Crawford, Battle, Pinson, Ott, Lucas, Hayes, Stavrinakis, Knight, D.C. Moss, Brady, Horne, Sellers, H.B. Brown and Sottile.

Also worthy of mention are the co-sponsors of the Senate companion bill, S.903: **McConnell, Land, Setzler, Sheheen, Scott, Elliott, S. Martin, Campsen, Hutto, Davis, Anderson, L. Martin, Rose, Cleary and Cromer.**