1977–1978
ENVIRONMENTAL VOTES
COMPILED BY THE
LEAGUE
OF
CONSERVATION VOTERS

317 PA. AVE., S.E., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003
HOW SENATORS VOTED ON CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
EXPLANATION OF SCORES

Listed below are roll call votes during 1977 and 1978 covering a wide range of environmental issues. Votes we consider correct are in capitals; votes we consider wrong are in small letters. Each Senator is given a score based upon the votes shown. To compute the score, calculate the percentage of correct votes among those votes the Senator actually cast, ignoring absences. Then, subtract one point as a penalty for every absence (shown as small "a"). Unavoidable absences caused by illness, emergencies or official committee business appear as a capital A and are not penalized.

The chart includes as many 1978 environmental votes as we were able to use and still go to press in time to get charts out to the public before the elections. Some votes occurring in the late fall may have to be omitted.

Bear in mind that the chart does not reflect a Senator's total record. The Senators' public votes are only the tip of an iceberg, and the tip may be deceiving. Behavior on an Important Committee or performance in the home state sometimes has more impact than a Senator's votes on the floor. Public votes reflect the pressures of his constituency as well as his personal conviction and may make him appear better or worse than he is in the relative privacy of a committee room. Some of the Senators appointed to fill vacancies have only been present for a few of the votes. Their scores are therefore not based on as broad a sample and their scores are put in parenthesis.

THE LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

The League is a national, nonpartisan campaign committee that analyzes, evaluates and publishes the environmental records of public officials. We support candidates with outstanding environmental records running in close elections, and endorse others who deserve recognition. The League is run by a Steering Committee consisting of leaders from national environmental organizations. They serve as individuals and do not officially represent these organizations. In selecting the votes to use on the charts, we also consult with many other national or local environmental leaders who have worked on the issues involved. We have tried to avoid using votes where environmental opinion was divided, even if the votes were important.

Marion Edey
Executive Director

STEERING COMMITTEE

Brent Blackwelder, Chairman
Richard Ayres
David Brower

Thomas Dustin
Michael McCloskey
Maryanne Meynet

Rafe Pomerance
Douglas Scott
Vim Wright
CUT AIR AMENDMENTS (S 255). The vote is on the Griffin amendment to delete provisions requiring that the Nitrogen Oxide standards for new autos be reduced to 0.6 gram per mile by 1983. Instead cars would be allowed to emit up to 1 gram of NOX per mile. Griffin's amendment was stricken on a vote of 90-0. The Senate did not agree to the NOX standards for all three polluants (carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides). Senator Domenici warned that passing the Griffin amendment would equal the Art's standards for all three pollutants (carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides). Senator Allen opposed the Griffin amendment because NOX is already known to be a source of lung and respiratory disease. The Carter Administration had endorsed the original committee bill which contained the weaker NOX standard, but did not lobby specifically on the Griffin or Hart amendments. Adopted 51-3; June 8, 1977. NO is the correct vote.

CUT AIR AMENDMENTS (S 252). The vote is on the Baker substitute to the Riegle-Griffin amendment. The Riegle-Griffin amendment would have substantially weakened protection against auto emissions by delaying the 1 gram per mile NOX standard for two years (from 1980 to 1982) and the hydrocarbon and carbon monoxide standards for three years (from 1979 to 1982). Baker's compromise retained the committee's earlier 1 gram NOX standard for new cars on low-emission or fuel efficient cars. It allowed some 1990 and 1991 cars to emit up to 1.1 grams of NOX if they had innovative engine and emission systems not using precious metals and if they could meet other emission standards. All cars would have to comply with the standards by 1982. Environmentalists supported Baker's amendment. The enormous pressure exerted by the auto industry, the strong lobby of the American Petroleum Institute, and the political pressure for more Bureau of Reclamation construction in the South and East virtually destroyed the amendment. Adopted 56-38; June 9, 1977. YES is the correct vote.

WATER PROJECTS. Motion to table agreed to 59-36; August 4, 1977. NO is the correct vote.

WATER PROJECTS. The vote is on the Stevenson amendment to allow state Governors to permit Class I and Class II areas to exceed allowable pollution levels for 18 days a year. This amendment would put that portion of the Clean Air Act which protects areas with pristine air from "significant deterioration" in air quality. Class I areas are national parks and wilderness areas over 5,000 acres; Class II areas include all other areas not violating federal ambient air standards for sulphur dioxide and particulates. Exempting the 18 days of peak pollution would significantly lower air quality. The amendment would allow construction of giant power plants and manufacturing complexes near national parks. For example, the Lower-Mountain Power Project could have built a 300,000 megawatt fuel power plant near Table Mountain National Park in Utah under this amendment. Its defeat was a major victory for environmentalists. The Carter Administration opposed the amendment. Rejected 33-61; June 8, 1977. NO is the correct vote.

WATER PROJECTS. The vote is on the Kennedy amendment to require a 1 gram per mile NOX standard for new cars on low-emission or fuel efficient cars. The Administration opposed the Kennedy amendment, as did the environmentalists. Motion to table amended 59-36; August 4, 1977. NO is the correct vote.

FLOOD PLAIN DEVELOPMENT. Flood Insurance Amendments (S 1253). The vote is on the Eagan amendment to once again allow federally-insured damage from the flood plain insurance program. The program was designed to discourage irresponsible new flood plain development on land with a history of flood damage. Environmentalists support user fees to discourage the needless channelization of natural streams and the resulting destruction of fish and wildlife habitat. They joined the President in opposing Stevenson's amendment. Adopted 54-31; June 22, 1977. NO is the correct vote.

WATER PROJECTS. Public Works Appropriations (HR 7553). The vote is on the Nixon amendment to eliminate the seven water projects remaining on President Carter's hit list that were kept in the Appropriations Committee bill. All these projects were environmentally destructive and financially irresponsible. They would impair wildlife habitat for various fish and wildlife species. They would delay construction in the most flood prone areas, and avert other safety measures. The government's main sanction for implementing this program was the 1902 Federal Reclamation Act which said that federally-subsidized irrigation water could be provided only to small farmers. If this measure were strictly and vigorously enforced, it would break up the powerful agricultural interests that are now growing rice and other water-intensive crops in semi-arid regions of the West. This would in turn reduce the political and economic pressure for more Bureau of Reclamation projects. Many of the California crops could be grown more easily in the South and East without irrigation and thus without the need for new dams. But eastern farmers can't compete when western farmers get federal water at ridiculously low prices. Pressure to enforce the 160 acre limit will probably drive up water prices and thus encourage water conservation. Many environmentalists would also like to help the small farmer compete successfully with agriculture, believing that small resident farmers will have more respect for their land. Adopted 52-37; May 2, 1978. YES is the correct vote.
11 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT EXCEPTION: Department of Interior Appropriations (HR 12933). The vote is on the Curtis amendment to delete the provision that prohibits the use of funds to carry out the national environmental policy act (NEPA) for projects in Colorado River basin. The vote is on the Curtis amendment to delete the provision that prohibits the use of funds to carry out the national environmental policy act (NEPA) for projects in Colorado River basin. The Administration opposed the amendment. Rejected 22-76; July 24, 1978. NO is the correct vote.

12 REDWOOD PARK EXPANSION (§ 2899). The vote is on the Hakawa amendment to delete from the bill provisions permitting the Secretary of Interior to designate Redwood National Park. The vote is on the Hakawa amendment to delete from the bill provisions permitting the Secretary of Interior to designate Redwood National Park. The Administration opposed the amendment. Rejected 28-65; January 31, 1978. NO is the correct vote.

13 ENDANGERED SPECIES (§ 2899). The vote is on the Hakawa amendment to give jurisdiction over endangered species to the state of California. The vote is on the Hakawa amendment to give jurisdiction over endangered species to the state of California. The Administration opposed the amendment. Rejected 22-76. July 18, 1978. NO is the correct vote.

14 ENDANGERED SPECIES (§ 2899). The bill created a new federal agency to manage endangered species. The vote is on the Senate amendment to establish the Endangered Species Agency. The vote is on the Senate amendment to establish the Endangered Species Agency. The Administration opposed the amendment. Rejected 38-57; January 31, 1978. NO is the correct vote.

15 RAILROADS Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1978 (§ 3073). The vote is on the Huddleston amendment to delete the provision that prohibits the use of funds to construct new railroads. The vote is on the Huddleston amendment to delete the provision that prohibits the use of funds to construct new railroads. The Administration opposed the amendment. Rejected 26-44; June 23, 1978. NO is the correct vote.

16 FREE FEDERAL PARKING Energy Conservation Provisions of the National Energy Policy Act (§ 2057). The vote is on the Kerrey amendment to amend the NEPA to require federal agencies to ensure that their projects do not have a significant impact on the national energy goal. The vote is on the Kerrey amendment to amend the NEPA to require federal agencies to ensure that their projects do not have a significant impact on the national energy goal. The Administration supported the amendment. Rejected 36-49; July 24, 1978. NO is the correct vote.

17 NUCLEAR BREDER REACTOR ERDA Authorization bill (§ 1811). The vote is on the Bumpers amendment to increase the funding for the Clinch River breeder reactor to $60 million. The vote is on the Bumpers amendment to increase the funding for the Clinch River breeder reactor to $60 million. The Administration opposed the amendment. Rejected 19-59. September 12, 1977. YES is the correct vote.

18 HEAVY METAL LEADERSHIP GROUP (HR 7553). The vote is on the Kennedy amendment to prohibit the use of funds to construct nuclear power plants in the United States. The vote is on the Kennedy amendment to prohibit the use of funds to construct nuclear power plants in the United States. The Senate passed the amendment by a vote of 73-26. July 24, 1978. NO is the correct vote.

19 NUCLEAR POWER ERDA Authorization (§ 1811). The vote is on the Kennedy amendment to prohibit the use of funds to construct nuclear power plants in the United States. The vote is on the Kennedy amendment to prohibit the use of funds to construct nuclear power plants in the United States. The Administration supported the amendment. Rejected 21-76; July 11, 1977. YES is the correct vote.

20 NUCLEAR POWER ERDA Authorization (§ 1811). The vote is on the Kennedy amendment to prohibit the use of funds to construct nuclear power plants in the United States. The vote is on the Kennedy amendment to prohibit the use of funds to construct nuclear power plants in the United States. The Administration supported the amendment. Rejected 19-59. September 12, 1977. YES is the correct vote.
MINING
miners
OIL SHALE Energy Tax Incentives
making. The Carter
STRIP MINING
mentalists prefer solar heat, wind, and ocher small scale energy sources which lend themselves to competition. The
OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
rejected
after five vears, unless it is renewed by the Secretary of Labor. In other words, one bad Secretary of Labor could gut the bill. Environ-
UTILITY
Kennedy amendment, fearing that
KENNEDY
Industry and opposed Jackson. Motion to table agreed to 62-30. September 8, 1977. NO is the correct vote.
ENERGY TAX INCENTIVES
ENERGY MONOPOLIES Coal Conversion bill
in the past the Interior Department has purchased the data but lacked the
ENVIRONMENTAL
Environmentalists supported the amendment because
SAFETY
Department make more intelligent
to Interpret it fully. Better
MINING
the bill is approved to its "approximate original contour." The Danforth amendment gutted this provision and required only
that strip mine operators obey federal pollution, health and safety laws, and restore the land sufficiently to meet local land use
requirements. Yet state and local land use laws are often very weak, or don't exist at all. This amendment would have ended strip
miners to leave highwalls in some areas because localities claimed they were planning to use the broad ledges underneath them for parking
lots. The Administration also opposed the amendment. Rejected 36-51; May 19, 1977. NO is the correct vote.
ENERGY TAX INCENTIVES
the Jackson motion to table and kill the Kennedy amendment to prohibit the
ONSHORE OIL DRILLING Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (S 9). The vote is on the Bartlel amendment to allow the oil companies
to withhold their interpretations of exploratory drilling data from the Interior Department, which leases Outer Continental Shelf lands.
In the past the Interior Department has purchased the data but lacked the expertise to interpret it. Better information would help
the Interior Department make more intelligent decisions about where to lease to maximize oil revenue while minimizing the impact on fisheries and on
the environment. The Administration opposed the amendment. Rejected 32-54; July 15, 1977. NO is the correct vote.
DRILLING
the passage of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (S 9) which substantially improved the law governing the
Oil Spill Liability
was mandated by the law. The amendment would have given the Secretary of the Interior responsibility for the decisions
Canal
leases if they would have serious and lasting environmental impacts. The new Act imposed strict liability for oil spill damages,
to get the drilling incentive to be careful, and it required use of the safest available drilling technology. It set up
Oil Spill Liability Fund and OCS Leasing Guarantee Compensation Fund for immediate compensation to people suffering damages.
Coastal states received additional funding to help them cope with the onshore impacts of OCS development, and got greater power to participate in decision
Making. The Carter Administration supported the bill and signed it into law. Environmentalists considered it a big step forward in the
To ensure that offshore energy development does not jeopardize fisheries and coastal resources. Adopted 60-18; July 13, 1977.
YES is the correct vote.
OIL SHALE Energy Tax Incentives provisions of the National Energy Policy Act (HR 5263). The vote is on the Hart amendment to delete from the
bill the $3 per barrel for oil
Energy Tax Incentives
The Senate Finance Committee had embraced without adequate study and deliberation. It deleted Section 1054, which provided that no
energy tax could be imposed unless the revenues went into an Energy Production, Conversion and Conservation Trust Fund to be used
for loan guarantees to oil and gas exploration companies, as well as revenue sharing for states which spent money on energy development.
An amendment was offered by Senator Subway to delete the Bill's 2% tax on power plant construction. The Administration had supported it.
Senate Finance Committee. Environmentalists supported the amendment. Motion to table agreed to 59-17. October 6, 1977. NO is the correct vote.
ENERGY TAX INCENTIVES
The Jackson amendment was defeated by a vote of 103-1, which provided that the Senate Finance Committee should reluctantly approve these provisions,
but that the Senate Finance Committee embraced without adequate study and deliberation. It deleted Section 1054, which provided that no
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Senate Finance Committee. Environmentalists supported the amendment. Motion to table agreed to 59-17. October 6, 1977. NO is the correct vote.
ENERGY TAX INCENTIVES
The vote is on the Kennedy motion to table the Allen amendment. Kennedy had just offered an amendment to reduce from about 30 to 20 the tax credits allowed to cover the business costs of conversion from oil or gas to nuclear power plants.
Senator Subway offered an amendment which would have fostered a tax cut for coal-fired facilities. Allen proposed a compromise of a 20% tax cut, which was shot down by Kennedy in this vote. Environmentalists supported all of Kennedy's efforts to reduce these tax credits, since a Treasury Department analysis calculated that the bulk of the money was going to nuclear plants but would have little effect on energy use. Allen argued that these were destructive and inefficient energy technologies that would consume huge amounts of water, land and investment capital. The Administration supported Kennedy's position but did not lobby on the amendment. Environmentalists did. Rejected 38-56. October 1, 1977. YES is the correct vote.
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<th>Representative</th>
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Votes are represented as 'Y' for 'yes' and 'N' for 'no'. The margin indicates the difference between the number of 'yes' and 'no' votes.