

# KCC Alert



Kentucky Conservation Committee, P.O. Box 1152, Frankfort, KY 40602

## **Needed: More Members outside Louisville & Lex!**

A quick look through our mailing list suggests that KCC could really benefit from an increase in membership in the rural parts of the state outside the "Golden Triangle" of Louisville-Lexington-Northern Kentucky.

We want to boost our membership statewide in order to increase the number of messages that the legislators receive from constituents. Direct contact from constituents is definitely the most effective way to affect the voting behavior of our legislators, whether it takes the form of phone calls, faxes, letters or post cards.

If you know people who might care about our issues, particularly in rural areas of the Commonwealth, please invite them to join and give them a copy of the membership form found in every issue of the *KCC Alert*.

Active members in every county in Kentucky will go a long way to boost our effectiveness in this critically important work.

Thanks!

### **KCC To-Do List:**

- ❑ Call the County Clerk and find out who your Senator and Representative are.
- ❑ Spend a day in Frankfort with our lobbyist, Bruce Williams. Learn the ropes and make a difference! Call 502-863-5938 or 859-221-1132.
- ❑ Invite KCC to present info about land conservation and stewardship to any organization of which you are a member.

## **Land Stewardship & Conservation Task Force Holds First Meeting**

The first meeting of the Land Stewardship and Conservation Task Force was held in Frankfort on January 23, 2007. All of the groups and agencies that currently work in the field of land conservation described their current activities, initiatives and plans. The goal is to make recommendations to the 2008 Legislature that strengthen existing and identify new funding to support the conservation and preservation of lands and the biodiversity of the Commonwealth.

The task force is chaired by Senator Robin Webb and Rep. Charlie Borders, and is being administered by the Legislative Research Commission.

KCC Lobbyist Bruce Williams was instrumental in ushering through the 2006 bill to set up the task force, and has been serving as our representative. The next meeting will focus on funding mechanisms that other southern states have used to assure a reliable stream of funding for land conservation programs. It will be held in April.

## **Clean Election Act would Reduce the Impact of Big Money in Our Political System**

Although House Bill 55, the Kentucky Clean Election Act, is not specifically an environmental bill, it could have a dramatic and beneficial effect on politics in Kentucky in the long run. Introduced by Representatives Jim Wayne and Kathy Stein, the bill would establish the Kentucky Clean Election Fund to provide public funding to certified candidates to supplement small contributions from individuals.

### Key Committee Assignments

**Senate Ag. and Nat. Resources** Tom Jensen (R), Chair; Vernie McGaha (R); Vice Chair, David Boswell (D); Ernie Harris (R); Dan Kelley (R); Bob Leeper (I); Joey Pendleton (D); Dorsey Ridley (D); Richie Sanders (R); Ernesto Scorsone (D); Damon Thayer (R)

**Senate Econ. Dev., Tourism & Labor** Alice Kerr (R), Chair; Brett Guthrie (R), Vice Chair; Julian Carroll (D); Julie Denton (R); Denise Harper Angel (D); Ray Jones II (D); Jerry Rhoads (D); Richie Sanders (R); Katie Stine (R); Gary Tapp (R); Jack Westwood (R); Ken Winters (R)

**Senate State and Local Govt.** Damon Thayer (R), Chair; Alice Kerr (R), Vice Chair; Walter Blevins (D); Julian Carroll (D); Carroll Gibson (R); Ernie Harris (R); Tom Jensen (R); Dan Kelly (R); Elizabeth Tori (R); Johnny Ray Turner (D); Ed Worley (D)

**House Ag. and Small Business** Tom McKee (D), Chair; Royce Adams (D), Vice Chair; John Arnold Jr. (D), Vice Chair; Mike Denham (D), Vice Chair; Richard Henderson (D), Vice Chair; Ken Upchurch (R), Vice Chair; Dwight D Butler (R); Mike Cherry (D); James R Comer Jr (R); W Milward Dedman Jr (R); C B Embry Jr (R); Jimmy Higdon (R); Charlie Hoffman (D); Brad Montell (R); Fred Nesler (D); Don R Pasley (D); Rick W Rand (D); Tom Riner (D); Steven Rudy (R); Tommy Turner (R); Susan Westrom (D); Rob Wilkey (D)

**House Economic Dev.** Ruth Ann Palumbo (D), Chair; Tim Couch (R), Vice Chair; Ted Edmonds (D), Dennis Horlander(D), Vice Chair; Vice Chair; Dennis Keene (D), Vice Chair; Fred Nesler (D), Vice Chair; Eddie Ballard (D); Kevin Bratcher (R); Jesse Crenshaw (D); Jim DeCasare (R); Mike Denham (D); Bob Deweese (R); Myron Dossett(R); Melvin Henley (R); Thomas Kerr (R); Adam Koenig(R); Brad Montell (R); Dottie Sims(D); John Will Stacy (D); Tommy Thompson (D)

**House Nat. Res. & Enviro.** Jim Gooch (D), Chair; Keith Hall (D), Vice Chair; Brandon Spencer(D), Vice Chair; Hubert Collins (D); Tim Couch (R); Reginald Meeks (D); Tim Moore(R); Don Pasley (D); Tanya G Pullin (D); Rep. Marie L Rader (R); Brandon Smith (R); Jim Stewart (R); Robin L. Webb (D)

**House Tourism Dev. and Energy** Eddie Ballard (D), Chair; Tanya Pullin (D), Vice Chair; Ancel Smith(D), Vice Chair; Brandon Smith (R), Vice Chair; Ron Weston(D), Vice Chair; Royce Adams (D); Carolyn Belcher (D); Larry Clark (D); Leslie Combs (D); Milward Dedman (R); Bob DeWeese(D); Myron Dossett(R); James Gooch (D); Keith Hall (D); Mike Harmon (R); Thomas Kerr (R); Tom McKee (D); Tim Moore(R); David Osborne (R); Robin L. Webb (D)

### Legislative Schedule

Jan 2: Part 1 Convenes  
 Jan 5: Part 1 Adjourns  
 Feb 6: Part 2 Convenes  
 Feb 16 Last Day for new Senate Bills  
 Feb 19: Holiday (Presidents Day)  
 Feb 20: Last Day for new House Bills  
 March 9-12: Concurrence days (with bills from other chamber)  
 March 13-23: Governor's Veto Days  
 March 26-27: Veto override & final business

### Contacting Legislators

**Who are my legislators?** You can look up your legislators on the web at [www.lrc.state.ky.us/whoswho/whoswho.htm](http://www.lrc.state.ky.us/whoswho/whoswho.htm) or you can call your local county clerk. All they need is your address.

**How do I communicate with them?** You have several options.

**Phone:** The legislative message line will get you an operator who will write down a message for you, no questions asked. Use the number listed under Legislative Message Line in our phone number box. Call 8:00 am to 11:00 pm.

**Send a fax:** The number is listed below. A fax can be sent to multiple legislators; you must list all names individually.

**Send email:** Addresses can be found from the web site listed above. Some legislators respond, to email; some do not.

**Send postal mail** to the Capitol Annex, Frankfort, KY 40601.

**What do I say?** Your message can be as simple as "Please oppose bill xyz." You don't have to be an expert. Including your relevant personal experiences can be very effective.

### Important Legislative Phone Numbers

Legislator Message Line: 1-800-372-7181  
 To talk to a legislator: 1-502-564-8100  
 Bill Status Line: 1-866-301-9004  
 Committee Calendar Line: 1-800-633-9650  
 Governor's Office: 502-564-2611  
 Secretary Teresa J. Hill (Envir. & Pub. Prot.): 502-564-3350  
 Legislator Fax Line: 502-564-6543

### 2007 KCC Board of Directors

**Bruce Scott**, Frankfort, President

<b>Ray Barry</b> , Lexington	<b>Ramesh Bhatt</b> , Lexington
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<b>Geoff Young</b> , Lexington	

### 2007 KCC Lobbyist

**Bruce Williams**, 502-863-5938; cell: 859-221-1132

### Bill Summaries and KCC Position

Bill No	KCC Position	Sponsor	Summary	Status
SB1	Amendment needed	Williams	Education bill to promote advanced placement courses in math and science classes. Amend to include environmental science.	Introduced in Senate
SB10	Support	Tapp	Creates uniform state permit and inspection process for installation of heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems. Could improve energy efficiency.	Senate Licensing & Occupations
SB24	Support	Angel, Boswell Pendleton, Rhoads	Create nonrefundable tax credit for producers of ethanol, up to a cap of \$1,500,000 per year.	Senate Approp. & Revenue

SB25	Strong Support	Angel, Pendleton	Create the Kentucky Farmers Market Nutrition Program to provide fresh, locally grown produce to low-income seniors and recipients of the federal Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for women, infants, and children; and introduce fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables into school nutrition programs.	Senate Ag. & Natural Resources
SB27	Study	Roeding, Pendleton	Eliminates the tax credit for blenders of biodiesel; requires producers of biodiesel to certify the fuel meets the current ASTM standards.	Senate Approp. & Revenue
SB33	Support	Angel, Boswell, Pendleton, Rhoads	Create a Biofuels Transportation Grant Program to encourage the purchase and installation of renewable biofuel refueling facilities; state government agency would prefer and set goals for biofuel-capable vehicle purchases.	Senate State & Local Gov.
SB48	Study	Stivers	Allow private land owners and any governmental entity to enter into an agreement for the recreational use of private land; require the government to be responsible for the upkeep of the land; exempt the landowner from liability due to damage or accident by the user; prohibit the land being declared unsuitable for mining or becoming the basis for the denial of a mining permit.	Introduced in Senate
HB 29	Study	Floyd	Would allow judges to reduce or deny awards to successful party in certain cases. Could have a chilling effect on efforts to assure accountability in the administration and enforcement of environmental and health laws.	House Judiciary
HB 55	Support	Wayne, Stein	KY Clean Election Act. Comprehensive reform of state campaign finance law, providing for public financing and setting limits on individual and aggregate private contributions for participating candidates.	House Elections, Const. Amend, & Inter-Gov. Affairs
HB 69	Study	Arnold	Coal mining operations that resume after temporary closure, have raw production of at least 3 million tons of coal, and employ over 500 persons would be entitled to economic revitalization tax credits.	House Economic Development
HB 94	Support	Pullin, Denham	Would create standards and procedures for remediation of properties contaminated from methamphetamine labs.	House Seniors, Mil. Affairs & Public Safety
HB102	Study	Pullin	Adds crude oil and petroleum products to the definition of "gas" to allow financing under the Kentucky Gas Pipeline Authority.	House Tourism, Devel. & Energy
HB113	Support	Hoffman, Wayne	Create a nonrefundable credit for new 2007 or later-year models of hybrid dual-fuel electric vehicles purchased after December 31, 2006.	House Approp. & Revenue
HB 123	Strong Support	Pullin	Mandates that the Public Service Commission initiate a 3-year pilot program for installation of "next-generation" electric meters in residences, with interior readouts and remote reporting to utilities of energy use; provides for compilation and reporting of study results.	House Tourism, Devel. & Energy
HB 134	Support	Yonts	Requires railroad companies to develop risk assessments, training, security, and community protection plans to assess and reduce risks of sabotage, terrorism and others crimes from storage and movement of hazardous cargo and oil.	House Transportation
HB136	Study	Pasley, Moberly	Amends law for lease and purchase of infrastructure of the Soil and Water Conservation Commission with state funds.	House Natural Resources & Environment
HB137	Support	Yonts	Extend, from July 15, 2006 to July 15, 2008, the deadline date for registering and filing applications relating to underground petroleum storage tanks.	House Natural Resources & Environment
HB161	Oppose	Edmonds, Hall	Require the cabinet to issue multi-axle permits in excess of 120,000 pounds for carriers that meet the axle weight provisions and meet safety standards.	House Transportation
HCR18	Support	Pullin	Encourage the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development to promote and market the use of Amtrak rail passenger service and the communities which serve as Amtrak passenger stations.	House Transportation
HJR14	Support	Pullin	Creates an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Usage Task Force in KY Dept. of Ag. to study the impacts of ATVs and ways to stop illegal usage on private and public property, particularly private farmland.	House Ag. & Small Business

***The Earth Needs a Friend in Frankfort – Membership Form***

**Please check all that apply:**

\$25 (individual)     \$35 (family)     \$15 (limited income)     \$50 (contributor)     \$100+(patron)     \$365(“365 Club”)

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ My state representative (if you know): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ My state senator (if you know): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Home phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Because one of KCC’s main activities is influencing legislation, contributions are not tax deductible. Please send your check and membership information to: KCC, P.O. Box 1152, Frankfort, KY 40602. For more information call: 502-223-1240.

KCC thanks **PlanGraphics**, Frankfort, KY for technical and material assistance in producing the *KCC Alert*.

**Internet Access to the Alert**

The Sierra Club graciously posts the KCC Alert on the Club’s web site; go to <http://kentucky.sierraclub.org/kcc/billsummary.asp>

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