

# KCC Alert



Kentucky Conservation Committee

January 23, 2010

## —eye on the session—

### Money woes won't end plans for landmark conservation funding

By Bruce Williams,  
KCC Legislative Agent

Three themes are pushing the conversation in Frankfort this session; money, gambling and money. And not necessarily in that order.

Never-the-less, KCC is continuing with dogged determination to keep momentum going toward a land conservation program for the state.

KCC along with the Land Stewardship Task Force is developing legislation designed to set up the framework for a "Land Stewardship Trust Fund" to receive and administer new money for land conservation projects.

If we are successful, this program could very well be the most significant piece of environmental legislation in recent memory.

As it stands now, we have commitments from Representative Charlie Hoffman to sponsor the bill in the House and from Senator Brandon Smith to sponsor it in the Senate.

We will need all the help we can get to pass a bill, so get ready to text and email your legislators as soon as we get the bill numbers.

After the framework is in place, the real work begins--to get the state to create a significant long-term funding source for the protection of our natural areas.

It's a big order, but the success of a recent ballot initiative in Minnesota and meetings with other state and national conservation groups give us renewed confidence that it is possible.

Stay Tuned!

### KCC's To-Do List:

- Find out who your Senator and Representative is from the County Clerk or from the LRC web site.
- Call or send a fax to Rep. Eddie Ballard, chair of the House Tourism Development and Energy Committee, to oppose HB 173. This bill will allow the destruction of sensitive public lands despite opposition of the state agencies charged with managing these lands.

### Sustainable energy alliance advances renewable agenda

With the Governor's energy plan stuck and a binding goal for renewables absent during the last session, KCC has joined a coalition of environmental advocacy and justice groups that will propose sustainable energy agenda to the current General Assembly.

The Kentucky Sustainable Energy Alliance (KySEA) is a coalition to "promote clean, sustainable and affordable energy solutions for Kentucky."

It plans to develop the "ideas, resources, public understanding and political support necessary to advance solutions that can help all Kentuckians save money and energy, especially those who are most vulnerable to rising costs and rapidly changing energy conditions."

Other members of the coalition include environmental groups such as the Kentucky Resources Council, Cumberland Chapter Sierra Club, and KFTC, but the coalition also includes advocates for poor people likely to be impacted by higher energy costs such as the Metropolitan Housing Coalition and Frontier Housing.

Translating the group's vision for a sustainable energy future for Kentucky into a legislative agenda for the 2010 General Assembly is the group's first challenge.

These initiatives have been identified by KySEA as its legislative priorities

during the current session:

- Pass a Renewable and Efficiency Portfolio Standard requiring utilities to get 12.5% of their retail sales from renewable sources and achieve 2% annual, incremental energy efficiency savings by 2020.
- Establish a trust fund to support innovative programs that help low and moderate income Kentuckians save energy and all utility customers save money all over time.
- Establish a Production-Based Incentive ("feed-in tariff") to attract private investment and expand in-state renewable energy production.
- Strengthening other existing energy policies in order to jump start deployment of energy efficiency and renewable energy strategies in Kentucky.

Drafting implementing legislation is Tom Fitzgerald, KRC.

KCC has laid the groundwork on the production-based incentives, and a white paper on this exotic-sounding but common sense initiative can be found on KCC's website:

[www.kyconservation.org/production-incentives12.pdf](http://www.kyconservation.org/production-incentives12.pdf)

To learn more about and join the KY Sustainable Energy Alliance and to stay current with its policy initiatives, visit their excellent website:

[www.kysea.org/](http://www.kysea.org/)

Visit us on the web: [www.kyconservation.org](http://www.kyconservation.org)

## 2010 Kentucky General Assembly

### House Leadership

**Speaker:** Greg Stumbo

**Speaker Pro Tem:** Larry Clark

	<b>Majority (D)</b>	<b>Minority (R)</b>
<b>Floor Leader</b>	Rocky Adkins	Jeff Hoover
<b>Caucus Chair</b>	Robert Damron	Bob DeWeese
<b>Whip</b>	John Will Stacy	David Floyd

### Key House Committees

#### *House Agriculture and Small Business*

Tom McKee, chair; Royce W. Adams, John A. Arnold, Mike Denham, C.B. Embry, Richard Henderson, Ken Upchurch, vice chairs; Johnny Bell, John Carney, Mike Cherry, James R. Comer, Jeff Greer, Charlie Hoffman, Martha Jane King, Brad Montell, Fred Nesler, David Osborne, Don Pasley, Tom Riner, Steven Rudy, Dottie Sims, Kent Stevens, Wilson Stone, Tommy Turner, Susan Westrom.

#### *House Natural Resources and Environment*

Jim Gooch, chair; Tim Couch, Keith Hall, Fitz Steele, and Jim Stewart, vice chairs; Hubert Collins, Stan Lee, Reginald Meeks, Tim Moore, Don Pasley, Marie Rader, Kevin Sinette, Ansel Smith, Jill York.

#### *House Tourism Development and Energy*

Eddie Ballard, chair; Mike Harmon, Ansel Smith, Fitz Steele, Ron Weston, vice chairs; Royce Adams, Larry Clark, Leslie Combs, Bob DeWeese, Myron Dossett, Kelly Flood, Jim Gooch, Keith Hall, Thomas Kerr, Martha Jane King, Tom McKee, Tim Moore, David Osborne, Addia Wuchner, Jill York.

### Senate Leadership

**Speaker:** David Williams

**Speaker Pro Tem:** Katie Kratz Stine

	<b>Majority (R)</b>	<b>Minority (D)</b>
<b>Floor Leader</b>	Robert Stivers	Ed Worley
<b>Caucus Chair</b>	Dan Seum	Johnny Ray Turner
<b>Whip</b>	Carroll Gibson	Jerry Rhoads

### Key Senate Committees

#### *Senate Natural Resources and Energy*

Brandon Smith, chair; Tom Jensen, vice chair; David Boswell, Ray S. Jones, Bob Leeper, Dorsey Ridley, John Schickel, Katie Kratz Stine, Robert Stivers, Gary Tapp, Johnny Ray Turner.

#### *Senate Economic Development, Tourism, and Labor*

Alice Forgy Kerr, chair; Gary Tapp, vice chair; Julian M. Carroll, Julie Denton, Denise Harper Angell, Ray S. Jones, Jerry P. Rhoads, Katie Kratz Stine, Robin L. Webb, Jack Westwood, Ken Winters.

#### *Senate Agriculture*

David Givens, chair; Vernie McGaha, vice-chair; David Boswell, Ernie Harris, Bob Leeper, Joey Pendleton, Dorsey Ridley, Kathy W. Stein, Damon Thayer, Ken Winters.

KCC-Kentucky Conservation Committee is not associated with the "Kentucky Conservation Coalition."

## Contacting Legislators

**Who are my legislators?** Representative s and Senators are listed by county at [www.lrc.ky.gov/Legislators.htm](http://www.lrc.ky.gov/Legislators.htm). Or, input your address at <http://vote-smart.org>. Or, call your county clerk.

**How do I communicate with legislators?** Legislators want to hear from their constituents. You have several options—use the telephone numbers in the box below.

**Leave a message:** The legislator message line will get you an operator who will take the message you dictate, no questions asked. Include the Bill Number in your message. You may call 7 am to 11 pm ET M-Th, 7 am to 6 pm F.

**Send a fax:** A fax can be addressed to individual members, members of a committee, or members of the House or Senate.

**Send email:** Email addresses are available here:

<http://www.lrc.ky.gov/whoswho/email.htm>

Some legislators respond to email; some do not.

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

**Call direct:** Legislators are very busy during the session, but many will try to take time to talk to a constituent.

**What do I say?** Your message can be as simple as "Please oppose House Bill 888." You don't have to be an expert. Sharing relevant personal experiences can be *very* effective.

### Important Phone Numbers

Legislator Message Line: 1-800-372-7181

Legislator Fax Line: 502-564-6543

To talk directly 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

EPPC Secretary: 502-564-3350

### Learn More about Bills

The Legislative Research Commission's website posts bills and amendments and is updated nightly:

<http://www.lrc.ky.gov/legislation.htm>

It works best with MS Explorer.

If you want to track a particular bill or subject area through email updates, subscribe to the "Bill Watch" service here:

<http://kentucky.gov/services/billwatch/>

### Legislative Calendar

March 1--last day for house bills

March 3--last day for senate bills

March 26, 29--concurrence only

March 30-April 9--veto

April 13--sine die

### 2009 KCC Board of Directors Vicki Holmberg, Lexington, President

<b>Russ Barnett</b> , Lawrenceburg	<b>Andy McDonald</b> , Frankfort
<b>Ray Barry</b> , Lexington	<b>Lisa Satin</b> , Lexington
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<b>Bill Martin</b> , Lexington	<b>Pam Wood</b> , Harrodsburg

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

# Bill Summaries and KCC Positions

**NOTE:** At our meetings during the session, the board of KCC tracks bills before the General Assembly that fall within our mission and considers what KCC's position on them should be. Bills that are central to our mission are identified as "**Priority**" for work by our lobbyist and to encourage communications with legislators by our members. The newsletter is sent out immediately after our meetings and should be inclusive of legislative activity up to the Friday evening prior to your receiving this newsletter. **Information that has been added to or changed from our last newsletter is in bold.**

## Senate Bills and Resolutions

Bill No	KCC Position	Priority	Sponsor	Summary	Status/Committee
SB 6	Monitor		Seum, P. Clark	Limits use of metal detectors in state parks to unimproved areas.	S-S & L Govt
SB 14	Support		Pendleton, P. Clark	Creates licensing program in Dept of Agriculture for growers of industrial hem;; requires criminal records check and random testing of fields.	S-Ag
SB 26	Oppose		Leeper, Winters	Ends prohibition of certification of new nuclear facilities without a plan for permanent disposal of nuclear waist; prohibits construction of facilities that receive or create low-level waste.	Passed Senate
SB 56	Support		Leeper	Changes standards for environmental remediation from EPA Region 9 to Region 3.	S-NR & E
SB 63	Support		Rhoades	Increases mine subsidence reinsurance from \$100k to \$300k.	S-NR & E
SB 64	Monitor		Tapp et al	Subjects appointments to the F & W Resource Commission to Senate ratification; prohibits co-mingling of moneys in Fish & Game Fund; requires Commissioner to be hired under contract approved by the Commission; restricts wildlife officers to enforcing F & W laws; deletes General Fund appropriations for F & W enforcement.	S-NR & E

## House Bills and Resolutions

HB 114	Support		Combs et al	Renames Pine Mountain Trail State Park the "Pine Mountain Scenic Trail."	Passed House
HB 124	Support		Yonts	Extends registration deadline for petroleum storage tanks.	H-NR & E
HB 173	Strongly Oppose	✓	R. Nelson	Creates a "Gaining Access into Nature" or "GAIN" program coordinated by the KY Recreational Rails Authority; establishes the authority as a state agency in the Tourism Cabinet; authorizes the authority to coordinate a statewide system of trails on public recreational lands.	H-T D & E
HB 175	Support		Steele	Encourages pollinator habitat in reclaimed mine lands.	H-NR & E
HB 197	Support		Pasley et al	Extends waste tire fee six years.	H-NR & E
HB 213	Monitor		Adkins et al	Gives pipeline companies eminent domain for transmission of carbon dioxide, and provides tax incentives. (KCC is concerned about the constitutionality of giving eminent domain capability to a private company).	H-NR & E
HB 221	Support		Belcher et al	Permits two or more wastewater authorities to organize regional wastewater commissions with rate-setting powers.	H-Local Govt
HB 240	Support	✓	Adkins	Re-enacts HB 2 passed late in the 2009 session related to High Performance Buildings and energy efficiency.	H-NR & E
HB 283	Study		Gooch	Increase surface coal mining permit fees from \$375 to \$2500 plus \$75 per acre.	Introduced
HB 308	Support		McKee, Denham	Establishes a "Forest Health Board"; includes forest fire prevention as part of Forestry Division's education program curriculum.	Introduced
HB 309	Study		Koenig	Abolishes the "KY Wood Products Competitiveness Organization."	Introduced
HJR 20	Oppose		Fischer et al	Prohibits enforcement of restrictions on carbon dioxide emissions by state and local agencies and governments	H-NR & E



**Kentucky Conservation Committee**  
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**Visit us on the web: [www.kyconservation.org](http://www.kyconservation.org)**

**JOIN KCC!**

The Kentucky Conservation Committee advocates with the members of the General Assembly for the environmental and conservation concerns of its members.

***SIZE MATTERS! JOIN OR CONTRIBUTE TODAY!***

**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): \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

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.**