



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF NORTH CAROLINA**

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Legislative Update for March 6, 2009

The Environment is a very important topic to all of us in the State of NC. Although, it seems to get cast to the back of the agenda due to the poor economic state our nation and our state are facing, we all need to pay close attention to the bills that are being introduced in the General Assembly on behalf of environmental conservation.

Veronica Butcher of "1SkyNC" reports, that "for years people have been predicting what the impacts of climate change would be: stronger storms, more periods of drought, sea level rise, flooding, and more wildfires to name a few." She also states that "unfortunately there is no longer a need to predict because in North Carolina we are already seeing a shift in our historic weather patterns and a rising sea level. Therefore it is imperative that North Carolina's Congressional delegation support and lead on strong climate legislation this year to protect our economy from further negative impacts of a changing climate."

This past week we saw a very important bill introduced that would have a large impact on one of our state's greatest natural resource; the Appalachian Mountains.

Rep. Pricey Harrison from Guilford County introduced a bill entitled: Appalachian Preservation Act. (H 340-S 341) This is an act to preserve the Appalachian Mountains by prohibiting electric public utilities that operate coal-fired generating units located in NC from purchasing or using coal that is extracted using mountaintop removal coal mining. This bill amends Chapter 62 of the General Statutes by adding a new article called "Article 5B. Appalachian Mountains Preservation Act. It was referred to the Com on Environment and Natural Resources, if favorable, Public Utilities, if favorable, Commerce, Small Business, and Entrepreneurship on 03/02.

The League of North Carolina supports this bill. See [Coal – The Great Hope, the False Promise or a Disaster in the Making?](#) on the LWVUS site.

LWVNC is hosting a regional meeting open all League members and the public from noon to 2:00 PM on "Good Mental Health Is Ageless." It will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2009, in Asheville. Senator Martin Nesbitt will discuss the status of mental health in NC followed by a panel discussion with Secretary of Health and Human Services Lanier Cansler and professionals in the field. Tickets to the luncheon are \$12, payable at the event.

The workshop and luncheon will be held in the Blue Ridge Room at Deerfield Episcopal Retirement, 1617 Hendersonville Rd, Asheville, NC. Please register for the events by contacting the LWVNC office by March 9: phone (919) 783-5995 or e-mail LWVNC@bellsouth.net. For directions go to http://www.deerfieldwnc.org/contact/deerfield_map.pdf.

Did you know that you can listen to each day's session, committee meetings and press conferences on the General Assembly's website at www.ncleg.net. Once on the site, select "audio," and then make your selection – House Chamber, Senate Chamber, Appropriations Committee Room or Press Conference Room.

For additional information on The League of Women Voters of North Carolina and our policies and partners, please visit www.lwvnc.org.

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