

2012 Clean Energy & Climate Action Scorecard



112th Congress, second session

Southern Alliance for Clean Energy Action Fund is the political arm of the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy. SACE Action Fund is a non-partisan, non-profit (c4) organization striving to make global warming solutions a top priority for our region's elected leaders to ensure clean, safe, and healthy communities throughout the Southeast.

As a legislative watchdog, SACE Action Fund works within our region's conservation community to identify and highlight important energy and climate-related legislation and votes in Congress with significant policy implications that will impact our energy choices, clean air and water and public health. SACE Action Fund holds our federal delegation members accountable for their votes in an annual Clean Energy & Climate Action Scorecard.

SACE Action Fund also educates conservation-minded citizens to encourage their involvement in the political process by providing the tools and information they need to make informed choices about clean-energy candidates at election time.

2012 Clean Energy & Climate Action Scorecard

Spiraling energy costs coupled with the already-visible impacts of climate change require energy policies that raise fuel-economy standards, establish energy efficiency standards, expand renewable energy production and reduce sources of climate pollution. Our region and this country cannot afford policies that rollback basic human and environmental health protections provided by the Clean Air Act or that undermine the clean energy economy by promoting a continued dependence on fossil fuels. Given that the pro-climate or clean energy vote was 'no' $\frac{3}{4}$ of the time, the 2012 scorecard clearly illustrates the many ways in which Congress attempted to shift the United States back towards fossil fuel dependence through a series of regressive energy and climate-related votes during the second session of the 112th Congress.

How to Votes are Scored

Each vote was selected for its importance in supporting or opposing clean energy and climate policies. For each vote, a U.S. Representative or U.S. Senator had four possible actions: **support** (represented by a ✓), **opposition** (represented by an ✕), **no recorded vote** due to an absence (represented by 'no vote') or because the vote occurred before or after a member's tenure (represented by '----').

4 Key House Votes

Climate Change

Vote #1

Representative Chip Cravaack (R-MN) offered an amendment to the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2013 (H.R. 5326) to eliminate funding for the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Climate Change Education Program, which educates and maintains a nationwide network of educators and scientists. The House approved the Cravaack amendment by a vote of 238-188 [*House roll call vote 241*]. **NO** was the pro-climate vote.

Clean Energy

Vote #2:

Representative Tom McClintock (R-CA) offered an amendment to the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2013 (H.R. 5325), which would eliminate funding for the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. Programs from this office have supported clean energy technology innovations that will further the clean energy economy. Fortunately, the House rejected the McClintock amendment by a vote of 113-275 [*House roll call vote 311*]. **NO** was the clean energy vote.

High-Risk Energy

Vote #3:

During House consideration of the transportation bill [Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) H.R. 4348], Representative David McKinley (R-WV) offered a Motion to Instruct House Conferees which would perpetuate inadequate regulations that led to the 2008 Tennessee Valley Authority's massive coal ash spill in Kingston, Tenn. and prevent the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from revisiting a coal ash-specific federal standard in the future. The House approved the McKinley Motion to Instruct by a vote of 260-138 [*House roll call vote 411*] but this language was not included in the compromise transportation bill which President Obama signed into law on July 6, 2012. **NO** was the clean energy vote.

Vote #4:

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman John Mica (R-FL) sponsored the Surface Transportation Extension Act (H.R. 4348), which included a provision to [expedite construction of the Keystone XL pipeline](#) despite concerns about how the pipeline would impact public health as well as its negative effects on climate change. Equally concerning is that this bill would fail to establish minimum national safeguards for disposing [toxic coal ash](#), which contains arsenic, hexavalent chromium, lead, mercury, and other hazardous substances even though it's been nearly four years since the devastating Kingston coal ash disaster. Unfortunately, the House approved H.R. 4348 by a vote of 293-127 [*House roll call vote 170*]. **NO** was the clean energy vote.

4 Key Senate Votes

Climate Change

Vote #1:

Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) sponsored the Repeal Big Oil Tax Subsidies Act (S. 2204) seeking to close tax loopholes for the nation's largest oil companies and direct the savings toward investments in clean energy, energy efficiency, and deficit reduction. Ending such wasteful subsidies (oil companies reported profits of nearly \$1 trillion in the last 10 years) may lessen our [dependence on an energy source that worsens climate change](#) and can irrevocably impact our treasured coastal places. However, the Senate failed to pass the measure as the vote was 51-47 and 60 votes were needed for passage due to Senate rules [*Senate roll call vote 63*]. **YES** was the clean energy vote.

Clean Energy

Vote #2:

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) offered an amendment to the Senate transportation bill (S. 1813) - the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) - which would extend critical incentives for renewable energy and energy efficiency. The amendment was a mixed package [combing both pro-wind incentives such as the [Production and Investment Tax Credits](#) as well as incentives for high-risk fuels such as coal-to-liquids] but on balance was considered an important step forward in building the nation's clean energy economy. However, the Senate rejected the Stabenow amendment by a vote of 49-49 [*Senate roll call vote 39*]. **YES** was the clean energy vote.

High Risk Energy

Vote #3:

Senate Environment & Public Works Committee Ranking Member James Inhofe (R-OK) sponsored S.J. Res. 37, a Congressional Review Act (CRA), which would void the Mercury and Air Toxics Standard for power plants [recently finalized by the Environmental Protection Agency](#). Over twenty years in the making, this long-overdue standard finally set the first-ever national limits on harmful air toxins emitted from fossil-burning power plants, including mercury, acid gases, lead and arsenic. Once fully implemented in 2016, the Mercury and Air Toxics Standard will [prevent up to 11,000 premature deaths, thousands of heart attacks, and over 100,000 asthma attacks each year](#). The CRA resolution Sen. Inhofe introduced would undo these protections and prohibit EPA from ever establishing similar public health protections in the future. Fortunately, the Senate rejected the Inhofe CRA resolution by a vote of 46-53 [*Senate roll call vote 139*]. **NO** was the clean energy vote.

Vote #4:

Senator John Hoeven (R-ND) offered an amendment to the Senate transportation bill (S. 1813) which would pave the way for the construction of the [Keystone XL pipeline](#) – an ill-conceived project seeking to transport dirty, carbon-intensive oil thousands of miles across the United States to processing facilities along the Gulf Coast. Thankfully, the Senate rejected the Hoeven amendment by a vote of 56-42 as 60 votes were needed for passage due to Senate rules [*Senate roll call vote 34*]. **NO** was the clean energy vote.

Florida Congressional Delegation – House

Dist.		House Member	Vote #1: Climate Change Education Program defunding	Vote #2: Office of EE & RE defunding	Vote #3: Inadequate Coal Ash Regulations	Vote #4: Expediting the Keystone Pipeline	4 key votes in 2012
FL01	R	Miller	x	x	no vote	x	0%
FL02	R	Southerland	x	x	x	x	0%
FL03	D	Brown	✓	✓	x	x	50%
FL04	R	Crenshaw	x	✓	x	x	25%
FL05	R	Nugent	x	x	x	x	0%
FL06	R	Stearns	x	x	x	x	0%
FL07	R	Mica	x	x	x	x	0%
FL08	R	Webster	x	✓	x	x	25%
FL09	R	Bilirakis	x	x	x	x	0%
FL10	R	Young	x	x	x	x	0%
FL11	D	Castor	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
FL12	R	Ross	x	x	x	✓	25%
FL13	R	Buchanan	x	✓	x	x	25%
FL14	R	Mack	x	x	x	x	0%
FL15	R	Posey	x	x	x	x	0%
FL16	R	Rooney	x	x	x	x	0%
FL17	D	Wilson	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
FL18	R	Ros-Lehtinen	x	✓	x	x	25%
FL19	D	Deutch	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
FL20	D	Wass.-Schultz	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
FL21	R	Diaz-Balart, M	x	✓	x	x	25%
FL22	R	West	x	x	x	x	0%
FL23	D	Hastings	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
FL24	R	Adams	x	x	x	x	0%
FL25	R	Rivera	x	✓	x	x	25%

Florida Congressional Delegation – Senate

State		Senator	Vote #1: Repeal of Big Oil Tax Subsidies	Vote #2: Renewable Energy incentives	Vote #3: Reversal of the Mercury Standard	Vote #4: Expediting the Keystone Pipeline	4 key votes in 2012
FL	D	Nelson	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
FL	R	Rubio	x	x	x	x	0%

Georgia Congressional Delegation

Dist.		House Member	Vote #1: Climate Change Education Program defunding	Vote #2: Office of EE & RE defunding	Vote #3: Inadequate Coal Ash Regulations	Vote #4: Expediting the Keystone Pipeline	4 key votes in 2012
GA01	R	Kingston	x	✓	x	x	25%
GA02	D	Bishop	✓	✓	x	x	50%
GA03	R	Westmoreland	x	x	x	x	0%
GA04	D	Johnson	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
GA05	D	Lewis	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
GA06	R	Price	x	x	x	x	0%
GA07	R	Woodall	x	x	x	x	0%
GA08	D	Scott, A.	x	x	x	x	0%
GA09	R	Graves	x	x	x	x	0%
GA10	R	Broun	x	x	x	✓	25%
GA11	R	Gingrey	x	x	x	x	0%
GA12	D	Barrow	x	✓	x	x	25%
GA13	D	Scott, D.	✓	no vote	✓	✓	75%

State		Senator	Vote #1: Repeal of Big Oil Tax Subsidies	Vote #2: Renewable Energy incentives	Vote #3: Reversal of the Mercury Standard	Vote #4: Expediting the Keystone Pipeline	4 key votes in 2012
GA	R	Chambliss	x	x	x	x	0%
GA	R	Isakson	x	x	x	x	0%

North Carolina Congressional Delegation

Dist.		House Member	Vote #1: Climate Change Education Program defunding	Vote #2: Office of EE & RE defunding	Vote #3: Inadequate Coal Ash Regulations	Vote #4: Expediting the Keystone Pipeline	4 key votes in 2012
NC01	D	Butterfield	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
NC02	R	Ellmers	x	✓	x	x	0%
NC03	R	Jones	✓	x	x	x	25%
NC04	D	Price	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
NC05	R	Foxx	x	x	x	x	0%
NC06	R	Coble	x	no vote	x	x	0%
NC07	D	McIntyre	x	✓	✓	x	50%
NC08	D	Kissell	✓	✓	✓	x	75%
NC09	R	Myrick	x	x	x	x	0%
NC10	R	McHenry	x	x	x	x	0%
NC11	D	Shuler	✓	no vote	x	x	25%
NC12	D	Watt	✓	✓	✓	x	75%
NC13	D	Miller	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%

State		Senator	Vote #1: Repeal of Big Oil Tax Subsidies	Vote #2: Renewable Energy incentives	Vote #3: Reversal of the Mercury Standard	Vote #4: Expediting the Keystone Pipeline	4 key votes in 2012
NC	R	Burr	x	x	x	x	0%
NC	D	Hagan	✓	✓	✓	x	75%

South Carolina Congressional Delegation

Dist.		House Member	Vote #1: Climate Change Education Program defunding	Vote #2: Office of EE & RE defunding	Vote #3: Inadequate Coal Ash Regulations	Vote #4: Expediting the Keystone Pipeline	4 key votes in 2012
SC01	R	Scott	x	x	x	x	0%
SC02	R	Wilson	x	x	x	x	0%
SC03	R	Duncan	x	x	x	x	0%
SC04	R	Gowdy	x	x	x	x	0%
SC05	R	Mulvaney	x	x	x	✓	25%
SC06	D	Clyburn	✓	no vote	x	x	25%

State		Senator	Vote #1: Repeal of Big Oil Tax Subsidies	Vote #2: Renewable Energy incentives	Vote #3: Reversal of the Mercury Standard	Vote #4: Expediting the Keystone Pipeline	4 key votes in 2012
SC	R	Graham	x	x	x	x	0%
SC	R	DeMint	x	x	x	x	0%

Tennessee Congressional Delegation

Dist.		House Member	Vote #1: Climate Change Education Program defunding	Vote #2: Office of EE & RE defunding	Vote #3: Inadequate Coal Ash Regulations	Vote #4: Expediting the Keystone Pipeline	4 key votes in 2012
TN01	R	Roe	x	x	x	x	0%
TN02	R	Duncan	x	x	no vote	x	0%
TN03	R	Fleischmann	x	✓	x	x	25%
TN04	R	DesJarlais	x	x	no vote	x	0%
TN05	D	Cooper	✓	✓	✓	x	75%
TN06	R	Black	x	✓	x	x	25%
TN07	R	Blackburn	x	x	x	x	0%
TN08	R	Fincher	x	x	x	x	0%
TN09	D	Cohen	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%

State		Senator	Vote #1: Repeal of Big Oil Tax Subsidies	Vote #2: Renewable Energy incentives	Vote #3: Reversal of the Mercury Standard	Vote #4: Expediting the Keystone Pipeline	4 key votes in 2012
TN	R	Alexander	x	x	✓	x	25%
TN	R	Corker	x	x	x	x	0%