

N.C. Home Builders Association & the Sprawl Lobby

Prepared by Democracy North Carolina, Oct. 2003

Why is there such harsh resistance in the N.C. General Assembly to proposals that support sensible planning, environmental protection, sprawl management, family-friendly zoning -- almost anything that gives the public a useful tool to regulate development?

Money has a lot – not everything, but “a lot” – to do with it: [1] the money developers and others perceive (accurately or fancifully) they will lose from an uninvited change; [2] the money spread around to gain influence and build relationships in the General Assembly. Here are highlights on the money given by the NC Home Builders Association’s PAC:

- In the 2002 election cycle, the NC Home Builders Association PAC gave legislative candidates \$223,150. Only one PAC gave more – their allies at the NC Realtors PAC gave \$255,450 to legislative candidates in the 2002 election. So the NC Realtors and NC Home Builders rank #1 and #2 for 2002.

(Other PACs are larger but none gave more money to General Assembly candidates.)

- Of the 170 members in the current General Assembly, 131 (77%) received campaign contributions from the Home Builders PAC for the 2002 election; 91 members – over half the legislature – got \$1,000 or more from the Home Builders.

- Supporters of Home Builders on the Swift Creek Reclassification (H-566) got, on average, 9 times as much from their PAC in 2002 as those voting against them (\$142,400 versus \$15,300). The bill passed second reading by a vote 91 to 24 in the House and 26 to 13 in the Senate. Among those voting, legislators who got \$1,000 or more from the PAC in 2002 voted with the Home Builders by a margin of 7-to-1, whereas a majority (28

versus 23) of those who received \$250 or less voted against the Home Builders’ position.

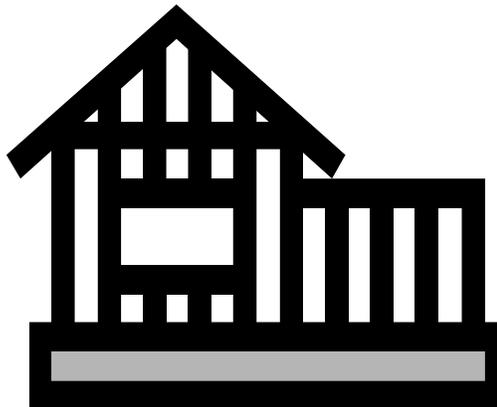
- Of the 26 legislators scoring 100 on the Conservation Council’s 2003 Scorecard, 18 got \$0 from the Home Builders PAC in the 2002 election cycle. Of the 21 who scored below 34 points, 14 got \$1,000 or more from the PAC.

- In the 2000 election cycle, the Home Builders PAC gave \$168,700 to legislative candidates (ranking it #3) and the NC Realtors PAC donated \$142,200 (rank #7).

- A decade earlier, in the 1990 election cycle, the Home Builders PAC gave \$23,400 to legislative candidates. The

nearly \$200,000 jump in their giving from 1990 to 2002 is the biggest increase in contributions to legislative candidates by any PAC. (In 1990, the Realtors PAC gave \$77,700 to legislative candidates.)

- In election cycle after election cycle, the pro-development or “sprawl lobby” is the single largest source of political contributions for state candidates (executive and legislative branch). This sector provides more than the health-care, banking or legal sectors. The sprawl lobby includes builders, Realtors, contractors, developers, and road builders.



Home Builders PAC, Vote on Swift Creek, and CCNC Scorecard

A Comparison of Contributions Received from Home Builders in 2002 with Key Vote and Overall Score

N.C. GENERAL ASSEMBLY: HOUSE MEMBERS

<u>N.C. GENERAL ASSEMBLY: HOUSE MEMBERS</u>					District							
District	Legislator's Name		HomeBldr PAC \$	SWIFT CREEK Vote	CCNC 2003 Score	↓	Party	↓	Legislator's Name	HomeBldr PAC \$	SWIFT CREEK Vote	CCNC 2003 Score
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
H- 82	D	Black, Jim	\$8500	0	INC	H-	12	D	Wainwright, Wm	\$1000	-	71
H-	2	D Culpepper, Bill	4000	-	75	H-	48	R	Clary, Debbie A	1000	-	67
H-	95	R Daughtry, Leo	4000	-	38	H-	22	D	Nye, Edd	1000	-	63
H-	82	R Barbee, Bobby H	3500	-	57	H-	37	R	Stam, Paul Jr	1000	-	63
H-	0	D Goforth, Bruce	3000	-	75	H-	86	D	Church, Walt	1000	-	57
H-	22	D Allen, Gordon P	3000	-	75	H-103	R	Gulley, Jim	1000	-	57	
H-	22	D Crawford, Jim	3000	-	63	H-	39	R	Ellis, J Sam	1000	-	57
H-	52	R Morgan, Richard	2500	-	86	H-	89	R	Setzer, Mitchell	1000	-	50
H-	78	R Brubaker, Harold	2500	-	50	H-117	R	Justus, Carolyn	1000	-	50	
H-	33	D Gibson, Pryor	2200	-	75	H-	62	R	Blust, John M	1000	+	50
H-114	D	Nesbitt, Martin	2000	+	71	H-	94	R	Decker, Michael	1000	-	50
H-	36	R Miner, David	2000	-	63	H-	80	R	Grady, Robert	1000	-	50
H-	45	D Warner, Alex	2000	-	50	H-	66	R	Sexton, Wayne	1000	-	50
H-	96	R Mitchell, Frank	2000	-	25	H-	88	R	Hilton, Mark K	1000	-	38
H-	97	R Kiser, Joe L	2000	-	25	H-120	R	West, Roger	1000	-	38	
H-	19	R McComas, Danny	1500	-	75	H-	87	R	Starnes, Edgar V	1000	-	29
H-105	R	McMahan, Ed	1500	-	75	H-	40	R	Eddins, Rick	1000	-	29
H-	20	D Hill, Dewey	1500	-	63	H-113	R	Walend, Trudi	1000	-	29	
H-	1	D Owens, Bill	1500	-	63	H-	85	R	Gillespie, Mitch	1000	-	25
H-	18	D Wright, Thomas	1500	-	63	H-108	R	Rayfield, John	1000	-	13	
H-	76	R McCombs, Eugene	1500	-	50	H-	50	R	Capps, J Russell	1000	-	13
H-	79	R Howard, Julia C	1500	-	50	H-	43	D	McAllister, Mary	750	-	75
H-104	R	Wilson, Connie	1500	-	50	H-	83	R	Walker, Tracy	750	-	75
H-	64	R Allred, Cary D	1500	-	25	H-	75	R	Barnhart, Jeff	750	-	43
H-	20	R Creech, Billy J	1500	0	25	H-	67	R	Culp, Arlie F	750	-	38
H-	13	R Preston, Jean R	1250	-	25	H-	95	R	Ray, Karen	750	-	38
H-	92	R Holmes, George	1000	-	INC	H-	91	R	Baker, Rex L	750	-	25
H-	9	D McLawhorn, Marian	1000	+	88	H-	61	R	Wood, Steve	700	-	25
H-	52	D Haire, Phil	1000	-	88	H-	5	D	Hunter, Howard Jr	500	+	INC
H-	8	D Warren, Edith D	1000	E	83	H-	59	D	Cunningham, Pete	500	-	INC
H-	25	D Cole, Nelson	1000	-	75	H-	32	D	Goodwin, Wayne	500	+	88
H-	60	D Earle, Beverly	1000	-	75	H-	47	D	Sutton, Ronnie	500	-	75
H-	78	D Fox, Stan	1000	-	75	H-	58	D	Adams, Alma S	500	+	75
H-	82	R Wilson, Gene	1000	-	75	H-	25	R	Daughtridge, Bill	500	-	71
H-	99	D Saunders, Drew	1000	-	75	H-	74	R	Johnson, Linda P	500	-	63
H-	16	D Yongue, Douglas	1000	-	75	H-	98	R	Rhodes, John W	500	-	38
H-116	R	Sherrill, Wilma	1000	-	75	H-	34	R	Munford, Don	500	-	38
H-	23	D Tolson, Joe P	1000	-	75	H-	57	R	Bowie, Joanne W	500	-	25
H-	59	D Jeffus, Maggie	1000	-	75	H-102	D	Carney, Becky	250	+	100	
						H-	17	R	Stiller, Bonner	250	+	100
						H-	33	D	Allen, Bernard	250	+	88

N. C. GENERAL ASSEMBLY: SENATE MEMBERS

District	Legislator's Name	HomeBldr PAC \$	SWIFT CREEK Vote	CCNC 2003 Score
↓	Party ↓	↓	↓	↓
H- 97	D Bell, Larry M	\$ 250	-	75
H- 7	D Hall, John D	250	-	75
H- 42	D Lucas, Marvin	250	-	75
H- 11	R Pate, Louis M Jr	250	-	75
H- 81	D Holliman, Hugh	250	-	71
H- 10	R LaRoque, Stephen	250	-	63
H- 84	R Frye, Phillip Dean	250	-	63
H- 53	R Lewis, David	250	-	50
H-109	R McHenry, Patrick	250	-	25
H-106	D Alexander, Martha	0	E	100
H- 49	D Allen, Lucy T	0	+	100
H- 56	D Insko, Verla	0	+	100
H- 23	D Luebke, Paul	0	+	100
H- 71	D Womble, Larry	0	+	100
H- 35	D Weiss, Jennifer	0	+	100
H- 23	D Miller, Paul	0	+	100
H- 44	D Glazier, Rick	0	+	100
H- 0	D Rapp, Ray	0	+	100
H- 54	D Hackney, Joe	0	+	100
H- 38	D Ross, Deborah K	0	+	100
H- 63	D Bordsen, Alice L	0	+	100
H- 0	D Dickson, Margaret	0	+	100
H- 60	D Jones, Earl	0	+	88
H- 31	D Michaux, Mickey	0	+	88
H- 77	D Coates, Lorene	0	-	75
H- 87	D Bonner, Donald	0	-	75
H-112	D England, Bob	0	-	75
H- 16	R Justice, Carolyn	0	0	75
H- 51	R Sauls, John I	0	+	75
H- 4	D Johnson, Charles	0	-	75
H- 72	D Parmon, Earlene	0	-	75
H- 90	D Harrell, Jim	0	-	63
H- 93	R McGee, William C	0	-	63
H- 14	R Williams, Keith	0	-	63
H- 6	D Williams, Arthur	0	-	57
H- 37	R Dockham, Jerry	0	-	57
H- 24	D Farmer-Butterfield	0	-	50
H- 73	R Blackwood, Curtis	0	-	50
H- 3	R Gorman, Michael	0	-	25
H-111	R Moore, Timothy K	0	-	25

Swift Creek Vote: "+" for CCNC position; "-" against CCNC;
 "E" = Excused absence; "0" = Unexcused absence
CCNC Score: "INC" = Insufficient votes cast to grade.

District	Legislator's Name	HomeBldr PAC \$	SWIFT CREEK Vote	CCNC 2003 Score
↓	Party ↓	↓	↓	↓
S- 1	D Basnight, Marc	\$8000	-	67
S- 19	D Rand, Tony	8000	-	75
S- 9	R Ballantine, Patrick	5000	-	50
S- 7	D Kerr, John	4000	-	75
S- 43	D Hoyle, David W	4000	-	75
S- 44	R Smith, Fred	2500	0	50
S- 46	D Dalton, Walter H	2000	-	75
S- 2	D Thomas, Scott	2000	-	75
S- 8	D Soles, R C Jr	2000	-	75
S- 39	R Rucho, Robert	2000	E	33
S- 40	R Pittenger, Robert	2000	E	33
S- 10	D Albertson, Charlie	1500	+	100
S- 40	D Clodfelter, Dan	1500	0	75
S- 49	D Metcalf, Steve	1500	-	75
S- 36	R Hartsell, Fletcher	1500	+	75
S- 25	D Purcell, William	1500	-	75
S- 30	D Weinstein, David	1500	-	67
S- 24	R Webster, Hugh	1500	-	50
S- 45	R Foxx, Virginia	1500	-	50
S- 50	R Carpenter, Robert	1500	-	25
S- 32	D Garrou, Linda	1300	+	100
S- 30	R Garwood, John	1000	E	INC
S- 42	R Forrester, James	1000	E	INC
S- 16	D Reeves, Eric M	1000	+	100
S- 6	D Hargett, Cecil	1000	+	100
S- 44	R Allran, Austin	1000	+	75
S- 31	R Horton, Ham	1000	+	75
S- 11	D Swindell, A B	1000	-	75
S-273	D Hagan, Kay R	1000	-	75
S- 15	R Carrington, John	1000	E	67
S- 26	R Berger, Phil	1000	-	50
S- 21	D Shaw, Larry	750	-	75
S- 14	D Malone, Vernon	500	+	100
S- 22	R Blake, Harris	500	-	50
S- 17	R Stevens, Richard	500	0	50
S- 41	R Sloan, RB	500	-	50
S- 29	R Tillman, Jerry W	500	-	33
S- 47	D Queen, Joe Sam	250	E	INC
S- 5	D Moore, Tony P	250	+	100
S- 3	D Jenkins, Clark	250	-	75
S- 48	R Apodaca, Thomas	250	-	50
S- 34	R Brock, Andrew C	250	-	50
S- 0	D Holloman, Robert	0	E	INC
S- 23	D Kinnaird, Ellie	0	+	100
S- 28	D Dorsett, Katie	0	+	100
S- 20	D Lucas, Jeanne H	0	+	100
S- 33	R Bingham, Stan	0	E	100
S- 13	D Gulley, Wib	0	+	100
S- 38	D Dannelly, Charlie	0	-	75
S- 35	R Shubert, Fern	0	-	50

Care About NC's Environment? Care About Money in Politics.

The people of North Carolina strongly support a great many environmental issues, including clean water, clean air, and smart growth.

Yet while voters want common sense regulations, our public officials often drag their feet when it comes to creating or enforcing good environmental laws.

It is no coincidence that the companies polluting our state the most also make large campaign donations.



Our elected officials become dependent on this money to run for office and to be re-elected. As their dependence grows on the "pollution lobby" for political donations, so grows the influence of the polluters on OUR public officials.

It is a terrible cycle caused by the dominant role of private money in public elections. We need an alternative in our state — Voter-Owned Elections.

The Pollution Lobby vs. Environmental Lobby

***Donations to N.C. General Assembly Candidates (2000 & 2002)**

Donations Given by 35 Pollution Lobby PACs* \$2.7 million

Members include home builders, Realtors, utilities, fuel oil dealers, and the chemical, timber, mining, and hog industries

Donations Given by N.C. Environmental PACs* \$23,500

The Conservation Council of N.C. and Sierra Club PACs are the environmental PACs in North Carolina.

For every \$100 contributed by a pro-environmental PAC, the pollution lobby's PACs donated \$10,000! We will never have the deep pockets of polluters. We need Voter-Owned Elections in order to free politicians from the grip of special interests and make them responsive to voters.

**Call 1-888-OUR-VOTE to
learn how you can help pass
meaningful campaign reform.**

The N.C. Voter-Owned Elections Act:

- Gives candidates a new way to run, without relying on big donors.
- Lets voters decide who gets the benefits of public financing.
- Limits the power of wealthy special interests by providing an alternative source of funds.

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