

It's the latest issue of the MountainTrue Raleigh Report. In this week's edition...Turn up the heat on legislators, MountainTrue takes Raleigh, Republican infighting and McGrady makes news.

Take Action Now!

We've written before about H765, the "Polluter Protection Bill" - a hit list of really bad environmental changes that will leave our water and air dirtier and let industry off the hook for cleaning up their messes. This week, MountainTrue members are rallying to contact legislators about the misguided policies in this bill, including sections that would allow industry to self-report environmental violations and escape liability, punish those who bring environmental suits against the state, remove protections for intermittent streams and cut air monitors.

We'll be using Twitter and Facebook accounts to get the word out and encouraging our members to contact their legislators about the worst provisions in the bill. Join with us. Visit our [website](#) and get started today. And, spread the word!

Here's the latest on H765...The bill has been sent to a conference committee and the House has appointed its conferees: Reps. Pat McElraft (Chair, Carteret-R), Dean Arp (Union-R), Paul Stam (Wake-R), Ken Goodman (Richmond-D), Mike Hager (Rutherford-R), Chuck McGrady (Henderson-R), John Torbett (Gaston-R), and Larry Yarborough (Person-R). The Senate will appoint conferees later this week.

MountainTrue Takes Raleigh

We had a great trip to Raleigh a couple weeks ago to meet with WNC legislators. We had good, long meetings with Sen. Apodaca, Reps. McGrady, Whitmire, and Gillespie. We also said hello to Reps. Ager, Turner, and Fisher. Rep. Ager even took us onto the House floor for a visit.



Republican Infighting

We are still waiting on a budget agreement, and tensions are flaring in the General Assembly. [Republican legislators have been sniping](#) at each other and at the governor – and our WNC legislators have been front and center.

Sen. Tom Apodaca created quite a stir when he gave an [interview](#) to the Asheville Citizen-Times. Asked about the governor's role in the budget negotiations, he said, "The governor doesn't play much of a role in anything."

Rep. Chuck McGrady got in the action when he [expressed his frustration](#) at Governor McCrory's criticism over the legislature's recent break. "This is ridiculous," he said. "The governor complained to us about taking a vacation, like we were going to accomplish a lot more (in Raleigh) while he's off gallivanting around the state cutting ribbons."

For his part, McGrady had a busy "vacation," which you can read about on his [blog](#).

Get to Know Chuck

Speaking of Chuck McGrady, check out our new profile of him on our [website](#). It is the latest in our effort to give you more information and background about our legislators.

More McGrady

And because we can't keep Rep. McGrady out of the news...there's more. Last week the Senate rewrote McGrady's bill, H571, which originally began a process toward implementation of the EPA's Clean Power Plan, including stakeholder input. The new bill forbids any state agency, board, or commission from taking any steps to plan for or implement the CPP until all judicial challenges to it are through, or July 2016, whichever is later.

Another interesting wrinkle is that if North Carolina has done no work toward implementation by next summer, EPA may immediately impose a default plan.

Stay tuned for future developments on this bill and its progress.