

It's the latest edition of the MountainTrue Raleigh Report. In this week's issue... Is McCrory moving to the center? Budget battles ahead and Sunday hunting.

### **McCrory in the Middle**

The big news in Raleigh this week was Governor McCrory's veto of Senate Bill 2, which would have allowed magistrates to opt out of performing gay marriages and House Bill 405 - also known as "ag-gag" - for its penalties for corporate and agricultural whistleblowers. Read about the implications of these actions for the rest of this session.

While the vetoes are important, the implications for the rest of the legislative session could be even more so. McCrory's actions and his aggressive lobbying for his infrastructure bond plan may indicate a growing willingness to take on legislators from his own party - as well as preparations for his 2016 reelection efforts, which many believe will require a move to the center.

What that means for the rest of this session is still unclear. Will McCrory veto more bills? Will the right wing of his party attack him - and those who follow him - for doing so? Will the General Assembly over-ride a veto and attempt to show the Governor who's boss?

### **Money, Money, Money**

A tentative timeline for the Senate's budget process was released this week. The Senate Appropriations and Finance committees will hear the budget on Tuesday, 6/9; votes on the floor would be 6/10 and 6/11. While we're waiting for the details, the [NC Conservation Network](#) has a good summary of environmental provisions in the House version of the budget.

### **Holy Hunting**

House Bill 640, the Outdoor Heritage Act, prompted some lively debate concerning Sunday hunting. Social conservatives argued that the bill would dishonor the Sabbath, and the NRA argued that not allowing hunting on Sunday violated private property rights. After the spirited debate, the bill passed the Senate Agriculture & Environment Committee and later the full Senate.

There's sure to be more fun coming up in the General Assembly, so stay tuned to our Twitter feed @MtnTrue and the hashtag #MTRaleigh to keep up on all the news.

### **MountainTrue's May Trip to Raleigh**

MountainTrue co-directors Bob Wagner and Julie Mayfield journeyed to Raleigh to attend the NC League of Conservation Voters Green Tie Awards last week and meet with legislators. Read more about our trip to Raleigh and the WNC honorees.

Two mountain legislators - Senator Terry Van Duyn and Representative Joe Sam Queen - were honored with Green Ties. Both are strong supporters and members of

MountainTrue. Also in attendance were Buncombe County Representatives Brian Turner and John Ager, likely future Green Tie award winners!



Bob and Julie also met with Representatives Chuck McGrady (Henderson), Jonathon Jordan (Ashe, Watauga), and Joe Sam Queen to discuss the budget, the renewable energy tax credit, and the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (REPS) battle and what might happen when those issues come back to the House from the Senate, where they are currently under debate. We also talked to Rep. Jordan about going river snorkeling in the Watauga after session is over!

Our next trip will be the week of July 13, so [let us know if you want to join us.](#)

### **Legislative Briefings**

After all the fun is done with this legislative session, join MountainTrue for an update on environmental outcomes of this legislative session, priorities between sessions and next year, and how you can get involved in holding our lawmakers accountable to the public they serve. These events in Asheville, Hendersonville, and Franklin. Visit our [website](#) for all the details and to sign up.