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February 22, 2010

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MA Delegation Receives High Grades for Clean Energy and Global Warming Votes 2009 National Environmental Scorecard Released

*****Full Scorecard available at www.lcv.org/scorecard*****

Boston, MA – Today, the Massachusetts League of Environmental Voters and the national League of Conservation Voters released the 2009 *National Environmental Scorecard*, revealing scores for the Massachusetts delegation in the first session of the 111th Congress. For 30 years, the *National Environmental Scorecard* issued by LCV has been the nationally accepted yardstick used to rate members of Congress on environmental, public health, and energy issues.

With Congressman Ed Markey on the phone conference from Washington DC as the groups released the report, Massachusetts League of Environmental Voters Executive Director Lora Wondolowski said the delegation leads the nation. Congressman Markey was the lead sponsor of the landmark Markey-Waxman climate bill that passed the House last year. Additionally, Senator Kerry is the lead sponsor of climate legislation that is pending in the Senate this year.

“We applaud the members of the Massachusetts delegation who fought in 2009 to bring clean energy jobs to the state and reduce our national dependence on foreign oil,” said Massachusetts League of Environmental Voters Executive Director Lora Wondolowski. “Our delegation has set the bar high for our newest member, Senator Scott Brown. We hope that he will continue the leadership path the Massachusetts delegation has paved and that Massachusetts voters expect on the environment.”

The 2009 *Scorecard* includes 11 Senate and 13 House votes dominated by clean energy and climate but also encompassing other environmental issues such as public lands, water, and wildlife conservation. In Massachusetts, seven House members and both senators earned a perfect 100 percent score in 2009. The average House score in 2009 for Massachusetts was 98 percent. These scores are well above the average for both bodies of Congress and are among the highest in New England, which was a high scoring region.

“The 2009 National Environmental Scorecard illustrates the extent to which the Obama administration and the 111th Congress began to move our nation towards a clean energy future that will create new jobs, make America more energy independent and curb global warming pollution,” said LCV President Gene Karpinski. “However, it also makes clear that there is still much work to be done, first and foremost to finish the work started in the House by swiftly passing a comprehensive clean energy and climate bill in the Senate.”

The entire Massachusetts delegation voted for the landmark American Clean Energy and Security Act, which would help bring more than 38,000 clean energy jobs to Massachusetts.* Additionally, our delegation had a perfect score on all clean energy and climate related votes.

“For 30 years, the League of Conservation Voters scorecard has been the measure of our progress in the Congress on energy and environmental issues,” said Rep. Edward J. Markey, who chairs twin energy and environment committees in the Congress. “Last year, LCV decided that this Congress would be measured largely based on clean energy and climate votes. My belief is that the next LCV scorecard will include a final vote on comprehensive clean energy and climate legislation like the Waxman-Markey bill.”

2009 *Scorecard* scores:

House

John Olver, 100%
Richard Neal, 93%
James McGovern, 100%
Barney Frank, 100%
Niki Tsongas, 100%
John Tierney, 100%
Ed Markey, 100%
Mike Capuano, 93%
Stephen Lynch, 93%
Bill Delahunt, 100%

Senate

John Kerry, 100%
Paul Kirk, 100%

The full 2009 *National Environmental Scorecard* can be found at www.lcv.org/scorecard

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* Center for American Progress & Political Economy Research Institute,
http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/06/clean_energy_map.html

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