



MEDIA RELEASE

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Under Walker, Legislators' Conservation Scores Plummet; Governor Walker Named to Conservation Dishonor Roll

Madison – The *Conservation Scorecard 2011-2012*, a report of how state legislators voted on key conservation issues in the last two-year legislative session, illustrates a dismal session for Wisconsin's natural resources. Of the 16 bills scored, 13 are anti-conservation measures. Of those, nine were ultimately signed into law.

“Governor Walker used his extreme anti-conservation agenda to lead others in the state legislature down the rabbit hole. In just 16 short months, Wisconsin's once proud conservation traditions have been deeply scarred. Governor Walker's highly partisan approach to our state's precious natural resources has alienated Wisconsinites on both sides of the aisle,” said Anne Sayers, Program Director for Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters.

The *Conservation Scorecard 2011-2012*, released today by Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, records legislators' votes on bills ranging from removing protections for wetlands, to reducing mercury exposure, to the open-pit mining bill.

Governor Walker was named to the Conservation Dishonor Roll, a special designation reserved for policy makers whose actions are grossly out-of-line with the conservation values of their constituents. This first-time action of naming a Governor to the Dishonor Roll was done in recognition of Governor Walker's extreme anti-conservation agenda, including introducing one of the most anti-conservation budgets in Wisconsin's history. In addition, no other Governor has used special sessions to so aggressively roll back conservation laws and to reward wealthy special interests seeking exemptions from laws that everyone else must follow. Governor Walker's appointment to the Conservation Dishonor Roll comes on the heels of being named to the state Dirty Dozen list just last week.

The highlight of the session was the state Senate's success in standing up to an out-of-state mining company that was seeking to rewrite our public health, conservation, and public input laws for their own benefit. Senators Jauch and Schultz and Representative Bewley were named to the Conservation Honor Roll for their efforts to make sure the voices of Wisconsin residents were heard during the open-pit mining bill debates.

Conservation Scorecard 2011-2012 by the numbers:

- Number of bills included: 16
- Number of bills that were anti-conservation: 13
- Number of anti-conservation laws signed into law: 9

Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters

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- Average Senate score: 43% (compare to 71% in 2009-2010)
- Average Assembly score: 50% (compare to 75% in 2009-2010)
- Number of Conservation Champions (defined as legislators scoring 100%) this year: 31 (compare to 41 in 2009-2010)

The Conservation Scorecard is produced by Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters as a tool to hold legislators accountable to their constituents and as a resource for voters. The legislation is vetted by the Conservation Scorecard Advisory Council, an independent and diverse group of citizens. Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters' Board of Directors makes the final decision on which bills to include as well as the Honor Roll and Dishonor Roll recipients.

To view the Conservation Scorecard 2011-2012 and corresponding maps online, [please click here](#).

Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to electing conservation leaders, holding decision makers accountable and encouraging lawmakers to champion conservation policies that effectively protect Wisconsin's public health and natural resources.

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