

Michigan League of Conservation Voters

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League of Conservation Voters Puts The Pressure on Energy Vote

Ann Arbor, Mich. -As an historic piece of legislation makes its way to the floor of the United States House of Representatives this week, the League of Conservation Voters (Washington D.C.) has taken steps to ratchet up its policy of holding elected officials accountable by announcing that it will not endorse any legislator that votes against the American Clean Energy and Security (ACES) Act of 2009.

This move signals the importance of the bill and the dedication of the League of Conservation Voters (LCV) to their mission. This legislation would provide incentives for industry to utilize clean sources of energy, and would also create millions of jobs nationwide. Here in Michigan, thousands of jobs could be created for contractors to retrofit buildings to be more energy efficient, and companies that are pursuing development, manufacturing, and maintenance in the clean energy industry would receive a serious economic boost.

“The arguments against the legislation are irrelevant and harmful to Michigan. The transition to a clean energy economy is necessary and inevitable, and any delay will continue to prevent the creation of new jobs here in Michigan,” said Kerry Duggan, Deputy Director with the Michigan League of Conservation. “We sincerely hope that the Congressmen we endorsed in 2008 will stand by their values, and do the right thing for their constituents on the ACES vote.”

ACES has been embraced by Fortune 500 companies such as Ford, Nike, BP America, ConocoPhillips, DuPont, General Electric, and Shell. In addition, the bill enjoys bipartisan support from organizations like Republicans for Environmental Protection. In their words, “This bill will be good for Michigan’s economy because it will create new business opportunities, encourage our industries to be more sustainable, and set the stage for America to compete and prosper in a 21st century economy.” Public support for a big change in energy policy is high, and the citizens want to see their country show leadership on this issue in order to boost overall economic growth while also addressing the issues of global warming.

“The moral of the story is this: we need to change course with our energy policy now in order to put the country back to work. The small minority standing in the way of this change represents old, entitled special interest groups that are comfortable with polluting the environment while ignoring the twenty-first century and the will of the public,” concluded Duggan. The vote on ACES is expected on Friday in the lower chamber.

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