



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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In Detroit, Michigan's Conservation Champions Honored for Outstanding Contributions to Protecting the Great Lakes State

DETROIT — The Michigan League of Conservation Voters convened business leaders, elected officials and conservation champions in Detroit on Thursday night to honor legendary public servants, Congressman John Dingell (D - Dearborn) and Senator Carl Levin (D - Detroit), with Lifetime Achievement Awards at *Innovation in Conservation*, Michigan LCV's second annual awards dinner. Michigan LCV also honored Ford Motor Company as Business of the Year and Northern Michigan conservation group, the Anglers of the Au Sable, as Advocates of the Year.

"Tonight, we celebrated the invaluable and irreplaceable natural resources that surround us in the Great Lakes State, and the champions who advocate and protect our land, air and water in innovative and important ways," said Lisa Wozniak, Executive Director for Michigan LCV. "The importance of strong leadership on conservation issues cannot be understated, and this year's honorees exemplify what it means to be a champion for our state's land, air and water."

Throughout their combined 96-year tenure in public office, Congressman John Dingell and Senator Carl Levin formed an indelible conservation team, pioneering public-private partnerships that led to the establishment of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, which has been lauded as one of the most successful ecological restoration efforts in the nation. Their commitment to the recovery of Michigan's rivers, lakes and streams, preservation of public land and the non-partisan nature of conservation issues exemplifies Michigan LCV's mission to protect the Great Lakes State for the enjoyment of future generations of Michiganders.

"Michigan's Great Lakes provide drinking water for nearly 40 million people, drive Michigan's economy and provide incredible opportunities for outdoor recreation," said Senator Carl Levin. "I am honored to have worked on behalf of the Great Lakes and on the behalf of Michiganders who value conservation during my tenure in Congress. I am especially honored to celebrate our achievements together with Congressman Dingell, the Michigan League of Conservation Voters, and so many other leaders in Detroit this evening."

"Michigan's conservation community has worked together throughout the years to accomplish enormous progress for the protection of our state's fine natural resources. It is an honor to stand before so many friends and celebrate our good work together in Detroit tonight," said Congressman John Dingell. "Michigan LCV celebrates innovation, and that is precisely what we need to continue to move Michigan forward toward more conservation successes for future generations."

For more information about *Innovation in Conservation*, please visit:

<http://www.michiganlcv.org/innovationinconservation>.

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Michigan League of Conservation Voters is the leading non-partisan political voice for protecting Michigan's land, air and water. Visit our website: <http://www.michiganlcv.org>.