



2014 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL
SECOND SESSION OF THE 113TH CONGRESS

SCORECARD

LATINO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS



Since 1970, the League of Conservation Voters *National Environmental Scorecard* has been providing objective, factual information about the most important environmental legislation considered and the corresponding voting records of all members of Congress. The *Scorecard* is the nationally accepted yardstick used to rate members of Congress on environmental, public health and energy issues. English and Spanish versions of the full *Scorecard* can be found at scorecard.lcv.org.

The Latino community's strong concern about climate change and protecting public health stands in stark contrast to the anti-environment agenda advanced by the leadership of the U.S. House of Representatives that is detailed in the 2014 *National Environmental Scorecard*. Fortunately, the majority of the Latino members of Congress stood up to the House's breathtaking attacks on our air, water, lands, and wildlife, while our allies in the Senate grew even more vocal this year about the urgency of addressing climate change and blocked the House's attacks.

2014 registered as the hottest year on earth since record keeping began in 1880, punctuating a trend that includes 14 of the 15 hottest years recorded this century. This warming is just one of the many impacts of dangerous carbon pollution—including rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and drought in some areas and flooding in others.

Climate change disproportionately impacts lower-income, Latino families' health, jobs and neighborhoods. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Latinos are more likely to live in counties frequently in violation of ground-level ozone standards and visit hospitals 30 percent more frequently than whites due to asthma attacks. In fact, Latino children have a 40 percent higher chance of dying because of asthma than non-Hispanic whites.

In spite of these disturbing trends, the Republican leadership of the House of Representatives continued its assault on the environment for the fourth year in a row—in fact the 2014 *Scorecard* includes 35 votes which ties for the most votes included in a single year. 2014 saw attacks on our cornerstone environmental laws, like the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, National Environmental Policy Act and Endangered Species Act. There were

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BY THE NUMBERS

- ▶ 19 of 25 Latino Democrats scored 80% or better
- ▶ 8 of 10 Latino Republicans scored less than 5%
- ▶ Average score of Latino Democrats 83%
- ▶ Average score of Latino Republicans 3%



LATINO MEMBERS' SCORES

Member	District/State	Party	% 2014
Rep. Raúl Grijalva	AZ-03	D	97
Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard	CA-40	D	97
Rep. Loretta Sanchez	CA-46	D	97
Rep. Xavier Becerra	CA-34	D	94
Rep. Luis V. Gutiérrez	IL-04	D	94
Rep. José Serrano	NY-15	D	94
Rep. Albio Sires	NJ-8	D	94
Rep. Juan Vargas	CA-51	D	94
Rep. Linda Sánchez	CA-38	D	91
Rep. Joaquín Castro	TX-20	D	91
Rep. Tony Cárdenas	CA-29	D	91
Rep. Ben Ray Luján	NM-3	D	91
Rep. Nydia Velázquez	NY-7	D	91
Rep. Raul Ruiz	CA-36	D	89
Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham	NM-1	D	86
Rep. Ed Pastor	AZ-07	D	86
Rep. Grace Napolitano	CA-32	D	83
Senator Bob Menendez	NJ	D	80
Rep. Joe Garcia	FL-26	D	80
Rep. Gloria Negrete McLeod	CA-35	D	77
Rep. Pete Gallego	TX-23	D	74
Rep. Filemon Vela, Jr.	TX-34	D	69
Rep. Rubén Hinojosa	TX-15	D	63
Rep. Jim Costa	CA-16	D	34
Rep. Henry Cuellar	TX-28	D	31
Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler	WA-3	R	11
Rep. Devin Nunes	CA-22	R	6
Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart	FL-25	R	3
Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen	FL-27	R	3
Rep. Raúl Labrador	ID-1	R	3
Rep. David Valadao	CA-21	R	3
Senator Ted Cruz	TX	R	0
Rep. Bill Flores	TX-17	R	0
Senator Marco Rubio	FL	R	0
Senator Pat Toomey	PA	R	0

votes to legislatively approve the dirty and dangerous Keystone XL tar sands pipeline, to dramatically expand risky oil drilling off our beaches and on public lands, and to prevent new parks from being created. Basic science itself was not spared, as the House voted against an amendment affirming the scientific consensus of man-made climate change and in favor of blocking the EPA's ability to use the best peer-reviewed science when determining levels of pollution that protect public health.

Thanks to the stalwart leadership of Majority Leader Harry Reid, most of the House-passed anti-environment legislation never reached the Senate floor. That is not to say that attempts were not made. But common sense legislation to extend clean energy tax credits or reduce the influence of big corporations and other special interest polluters in our elections—a major contributor to the anti-environmental turn of Congress in the post-*Citizens United* era—fell short of the 60 votes needed.

Looking ahead, we remain steadfast in our commitment to addressing the greatest challenge of our time, climate change, as well as making progress on other pressing environmental and public health issues.

We are grateful for the continued environmental leadership of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus who largely opposed the House Republican leadership's anti-environment agenda and will count on them more than ever to stop the inevitable polluter-driven attacks of the 114th Congress. And we look forward to continuing to work with the Obama administration to make even more progress on solutions that benefit Latinos, all Americans, and our communities.

To get more information about environmental and public health issues impacting Latino communities, please visit lcv.org/LatinoJoin