

2016 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SCORECARD

REPORT ON CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUSES OF COLOR



Introduction

Across this country, our communities are concerned for their health and the environment, whether it be parents anxious over their child's asthma, the Water Protectors defending traditional lands from the Dakota Access Pipeline, or every resident of Flint Michigan, who will forever be affected by lead poisoning. Every year since 1970, the League of Conservation Voters has published a tool that allows our communities to hold lawmakers accountable for their environmental and public health records: the *National Environmental Scorecard*.

The 2016 *Scorecard* provides objective, factual information about the most important environmental legislation considered and the corresponding voting records of all members of the second session of the 114th Congress. It is a powerful tool

in the hands of communities because the bills that are voted on affect the air we breathe, the water we drink, the lands where we grow our food and the people who harvest it. These votes affect the places that tell our histories, reflect our cultures and define our future. In a time when President Trump and his administration rely on "alternative facts," our *Scorecard* meticulously shows which members of Congress are indeed environmental champions and which members simply do the bidding of polluters.

For the first time, LCV and Chispa are releasing the 2016 *National Environmental Scorecard: Report on Congressional Caucuses of Color*. This special report looks at the key votes included in the 2016 *Scorecard* and tallies scores of members of Congress who are active in caucuses representing people of color, including the Congressional Asian Pacific American

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Caucus (CAPAC), the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC), and the Congressional Hispanic Conference.

The 2016 *Scorecard* includes 17 votes in the U.S. Senate and 38 votes in the U.S. House. Missed votes are recorded as a question mark and counted as an anti-environmental vote. For more information on the *National Environmental Scorecard* in English or Spanish, visit: <http://scorecard.lcv.org/>

2016 AVERAGE SCORES

Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus	98%
Congressional Black Caucus	89%
Congressional Hispanic Caucus	90%
Congressional Hispanic Conference	10%



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS



2016 National Environmental Scorecard

There is no doubt that 2016 will be remembered as a defining year in the fight to address climate change. Even as we experienced the hottest year on record—for the third year in a row—and world leaders came together on Earth Day to sign the historic global climate agreement reached in Paris in December 2015, the extreme anti-environmental leadership in Congress once again unleashed a breathtaking array of assaults on the environment, environmental justice and public health.



The 2016 *National Environmental Scorecard* shows that the Republican-led Congress pulled out all the stops to push a polluter friendly agenda, often at the expense of low-income communities and communities of color. The *Scorecard* tracks 55 votes on key issues with far-reaching implications for environmental justice and public health, including bills and amendments that would block protections for the drinking water for one-third of the people in our country, weaken lifesaving pollution safeguards for the air we breathe, and even eliminate programs working to prevent lead poisoning.



Fortunately, environmental champions in Congress were more vocal than ever, pushing back on these attacks throughout the year. In April, over 200 current and former members of Congress filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in support of the EPA's landmark Clean Power Plan, the single biggest step our country has taken to reduce the carbon pollution from power plants that fuels climate change. In July, 20 U.S. senators, led by Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), and more than 15 U.S. representatives, led by Representative Ted Lieu (D-CA-33), exposed polluting special interests for funding a complex "Web of Denial" to deny climate change and undermine action to address it. In August, dozens of members of Congress marked the centennial of the National Park Service, joining LCV and the public to call for the protection of more special places. And in September, Representatives Raúl Grijalva (AZ-03) and Raul Ruiz (CA-36) hosted a forum on the Dakota Access Pipeline project, supporting the Standing Rock Sioux's efforts to protect their water supply and sacred and ancestral lands.

Our champions, many of whom are also members of CAPAC, CBC, and CHC, hold leadership roles where defending our air, water, land, and wildlife are top priorities. Those

include Representative Grijalva, the top Democrat on the House Committee on Natural Resources; Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX-30), the top Democrat on the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology; and Representative Doris Matsui (CA-06), a co-chair of the House's Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition (SEEC).

These leaders offered policy solutions to critical environmental issues, including three amendments from Representative Grijalva which were featured in the 2016 *Scorecard*. One amendment would have permanently re-authorized the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which helps increase access to parks. Another amendment would preserve the president's authority to designate national monuments under the Antiquities Act, which has provided initial protections for nearly half of America's national parks. Representative Grijalva's third amendment would protect farmworkers from dangerous pesticides. While this amendment did not pass, the EPA recently updated the Agriculture Worker Protection Standard, which finally gives farmworkers the same protections as workers in other industries. The health of farmworkers, their



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families, and communities are disproportionately jeopardized by toxic pesticides, and these critical new safeguards are long overdue.

Even without pro-environment majorities in Congress, President Obama made an incredible amount of progress in 2016 and firmly cemented his legacy as the greenest president in our history. From the first-ever limits on methane pollution from the oil and gas industry to guidance for the National Environmental Policy Act to incorporate climate change to the final heavy-duty truck fuel efficiency standards to the agreement

with nearly 200 countries to reduce super pollutant hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) under the Montreal Protocol, it was a banner year in the fight against climate change.

President Obama also protected additional important public lands and waters in his final year, designating national monuments to protect special landscapes, cultural and historic resources, and/or sacred sites in places like the California desert, the Katahdin Woods and Waters in Maine, Bears Ears in Utah, and Gold Butte in Nevada. He expanded the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, now among the largest marine protected areas in the entire world. He also created the first-ever marine national monument in the Atlantic Ocean—the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument. In what should be the norm going forward, the president continued to protect places that are culturally and historically significant and that reflect the story of all Americans, such as the Belmont-Paul Women’s Equality National Monument honoring the struggle for women’s suffrage, the Stonewall National Monument honoring the start of the LGBT rights movement, and three places that honor our civil rights history: the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument, the Freedom Riders National Monument and the Reconstruction Era National Monument.

While not included in the 2016 *Scorecard*, a couple of major bills relating to public health and environmental protections were signed into law in 2016. The Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act reformed the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) and is the first major update to an environmental statute in 20

years. It provides the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) more authority to regulate toxic chemicals, but it also rolled back state authority to go above and beyond the federal government’s efforts to restrict the uses of chemicals. The Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act provided long-overdue funding to address the water and public health crisis for the families of Flint, Michigan, but it also undermined endangered species protections in California.

The stakes for ensuring that all communities have equitable access to environmental protections and environmental justice have never been higher and the threats have never been greater. We must do more than ever to work with our allies in Congress—and mobilize the public—to fight the Trump administration and the extreme Congressional leadership who want to roll back our bedrock environmental laws and President Obama’s incredible progress. As the 2016 *Scorecard* and this special report display, Congressional members of color—for the most part—recognize the importance of environmental protections for their constituents and communities. Our organizations pledge to combat the climate crisis and to fight to protect communities’ right to healthy air, clean water, and access to lands.





REP. JUDY CHU

“Clean energy investments are good for our planet and good for our economy. No brainer. #SOTU #ActOnClimate”

@REPJUDYCHU

12 JAN 2016



Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus Scores

The Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus formed in 1994 and is made up of Democrats in the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House. On the 2016 *National Environmental Scorecard*, executive members earned an average score of 98 percent, and all of the members who were scored earned 89 percent or higher.

	DISTRICT	PARTY	2016 SCORE
Sen. Mazie Hirono	HI	D	100
Sen. Brian Schatz	HI	D	100
Rep. Mike Honda	CA-17	D	100
Rep. Mark Takano	CA-41	D	100
Rep. Colleen Hanabusa*	HI-01	D	100
Rep. Tulsi Gabbard	HI-02	D	100
Rep. Grace Meng	NY-06	D	100
Rep. Barbara Lee	CA-13	D	100
Rep. Bobby Scott	VA-03	D	100
Rep. Doris Matsui	CA-06	D	97
Rep. Ami Bera	CA-07	D	97
Rep. Judy Chu	CA-27	D	97
Rep. Tammy Duckworth	IL-08	D	95
Rep. Al Green	TX-09	D	95
Rep. Ted Lieu*	CA-33	D	89
Rep. Mark Takai*	HI-01	D	N/A

Representative Lieu missed votes while on Air Force Reserve Duty.

Representative Hanabusa was sworn in on November 14, 2016 after Representative Takai passed away on July 20, 2016.

	DISTRICT	PARTY	2016 SCORE
Sen. Cory Booker	NJ	D	100
Rep. Barbara Lee	CA-13	D	100
Rep. Hank Johnson	GA-04	D	100
Rep. Elijah Cummings	MD-07	D	100
Rep. Brenda Lawrence	MI-14	D	100
Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay	MO-01	D	100
Rep. Alma Adams	NC-12	D	100
Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman	NJ-12	D	100
Rep. Yvette Clarke	NY-09	D	100
Rep. Charles Rangel	NY-13	D	100
Rep. Joyce Beatty	OH-03	D	100
Rep. Marcia Fudge	OH-11	D	100
Rep. Dwight Evans*	PA-02	D	100
Rep. Bobby Scott	VA-03	D	100
Rep. John Lewis	GA-05	D	97
Rep. Danny Davis	IL-07	D	97
Rep. André Carson	IN-07	D	97
Rep. John Conyers, Jr.	MI-13	D	97
Rep. Bennie Thompson	MS-02	D	97
Rep. Gwen Moore	WI-04	D	97
Rep. Karen Bass	CA-37	D	95
Rep. Frederica Wilson	FL-24	D	95
Rep. Donna Edwards	MD-04	D	95
Rep. Emanuel Cleaver	MO-05	D	95
Rep. Donald Payne	NJ-10	D	95
Rep. Hakeem Jeffries	NY-08	D	95
Rep. Al Green	TX-09	D	95
Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson	TX-30	D	95
Rep. Cedric Richmond	LA-02	D	92
Rep. Gregory Meeks	NY-05	D	92
Rep. James Clyburn	SC-06	D	92
Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee	TX-18	D	92
Rep. Maxine Waters	CA-43	D	89
Rep. Robin Kelly	IL-02	D	89
Rep. G.K. Butterfield	NC-01	D	89
Rep. Corrine Brown	FL-05	D	87
Rep. Keith Ellison*	MN-05	D	87
Rep. Marc Veasey	TX-33	D	84
Rep. Terri Sewell	AL-07	D	82
Rep. David Scott	GA-13	D	82
Rep. Bobby Rush	IL-01	D	82
Rep. Sanford Bishop	GA-02	D	47
Rep. Alcee Hastings*	FL-20	D	37
Rep. Chaka Fattah*	PA-02	D	29
Rep. Mia Love	UT-04	R	3

Congressional Black Caucus Scores

The Congressional Black Caucus formed in 1971 and is made up of Democrats in the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House and one Republican in the U.S. House. On the 2016 *National Environmental Scorecard*, members earned an average score of 89 percent, and 32 members earned scores higher than 90 percent.



REP. BARBARA LEE

***“The science is clear:
climate change is
real & we must act
now to save our
planet.”***

@REPBARBARALEE

7 DEC 2016

Representative Hastings missed a number of votes due to his presence in his congressional district.

Representative Ellison missed votes due to an emergency constituent issue in his district.

Representative Evans was sworn in on November 14, 2016, following the resignation of Representative Fattah on June 23, 2016.

	DISTRICT	PARTY	2016 SCORE
Sen. Robert Menendez	NJ	D	100
Rep. Pete Aguilar	CA-31	D	100
Rep. Norma Torres	CA-35	D	100
Rep. Raul Ruiz	CA-36	D	100
Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard	CA-40	D	100
Rep. Juan Vargas	CA-51	D	100
Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham	NM-01	D	100
Rep. Ben Ray Lujan	NM-03	D	100
Rep. Nydia Velázquez	NY-07	D	100
Rep. Ruben Gallego	AZ-07	D	97
Rep. Luis Gutiérrez	IL-04	D	97
Rep. Jose Serrano	NY-15	D	97
Rep. Raúl Grijalva	AZ-03	D	95
Rep. Linda Sánchez	CA-38	D	95
Rep. Grace Napolitano	CA-32	D	92
Rep. Albio Sires	NJ-08	D	92
Rep. Rubén Hinojosa	TX-15	D	92
Rep. Joaquin Castro	TX-20	D	92
Rep. Xavier Becerra	CA-34	D	89
Rep. Tony Cárdenas*	CA-29	D	84
Rep. Filemon Vela	TX-34	D	82
Rep. Loretta Sánchez	CA-46	D	66
Rep. Jim Costa	CA-16	D	55
Rep. Henry Cuellar	TX-28	D	32

Representative Cárdenas missed a number of votes due to a family matter and the California Primary Election.

Congressional Hispanic Conference Scores

The Congressional Hispanic Conference formed in 2003 and is made up of Republicans in the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House. On the 2016 *National Environmental Scorecard*, members earned an average score of only 10 percent. In fact, everyone except two members—Reps. Carlos Curbelo and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen both of Florida—earned scores of 8 percent or lower.

	DISTRICT	PARTY	2016 SCORE
Rep. Carlos Curbelo	FL-26	R	53
Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen	FL-27	R	45
Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart	FL-25	R	8
Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler	WA-03	R	8
Sen. Marco Rubio*	FL	R	6
Rep. David Valadao	CA-21	R	5
Rep. Devin Nunes	CA-22	R	3
Rep. Ron DeSantis	FL-06	R	3
Sen. Pat Toomey	PA	R	0
Sen. Ted Cruz*	TX	R	0
Rep. Raúl Labrador	ID-01	R	0
Rep. Bill Flores	TX-17	R	0
Rep. Alex Mooney	WV-02	R	0

Senators Rubio and Cruz missed a number votes while campaigning for U.S. President.

Congressional Hispanic Caucus Scores

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus formed in 1976 and is made up of Democrats in the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House. On the 2016 *National Environmental Scorecard*, members earned an average score of 90 percent, and 18 members earned scores higher than 90 percent.



REP. PETE AGUILAR

“Breathable air, clean drinking water and a beautiful planet are not just goals. They are a responsibility we all share. #EarthDay”

@REPPETEAGUILAR

22 APR 2016