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NEWS RELEASE

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Sierra Club Releases 2013-14 Legislative Scorecard

Madison: The John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club today released its 2013-14 Scorecard of environmental votes taken by the Wisconsin Legislature. The Sierra Club also announced the list of 2014 Environmental Champions who voted 100% pro-environment in the latest legislative session.

"The Sierra Club is proud of the champions who consistently cast votes to protect Wisconsin's environment, despite strong pressure in some cases to do otherwise," said Shahla M. Werner, PhD., Chapter Director. "These legislators have shown clear commitments to maintaining clean air, clean water and the irreplaceable places that make Wisconsin unique. We are confident that they will fight to protect Wisconsin's environment, for our families and for our future."

The 2013-14 Sierra Club Legislative Scorecard can be found at: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/politics.asp>. The Scorecard focuses on bills related to the John Muir Chapter's priority issues of reducing climate change and protecting land and water resources in Wisconsin. The Sierra Club legislative scorecard is used along with other factors to make endorsement decisions for incumbent candidates.

"The scorecard shows that single party control and the deep partisan divide in Wisconsin resulted in continued attacks on natural resources last session. The worst defeats included the Bad River Watershed Destruction Act, which dangerously guts iron mining safeguards, and provisions in the biennial budget which reduce groundwater protection and force the sale of 10,000 acres of stewardship land. On the bright side, grassroots activism was able to successfully fend off proposals to undermine local control in sand mining and hamper the DNR's ability to regulate high capacity wells" said Werner.

"Influencing legislation is all about paying attention to the details," said Caryl Terrell, Legislative Committee Chair. "Good ideas can morph to bad bills with a brief amendment. Our members use our action alerts and this Scorecard to judge who really fought for the environment. Let your representative know if you're pleased or disappointed with their voting records. Then, don't forget to vote in the primary election on August 12 and in the general election November 4, 2014!"

Thirty-three state lawmakers scored a perfect 100% on the scorecard and have been named "**2014 Environmental Champions**" for their demonstrated commitment to preserving Wisconsin's environment. The names of the Environmental Champions are listed in bold below. The scorecard also shows us which lawmakers consistently protect the interests of polluters, with many legislators scoring zero.

“Supporting strong environmental leaders who will work hard for Wisconsin’s environment is a priority for the Club. We honor these Environmental Champions for their steadfast votes that contribute to a cleaner environment and a healthier future for Wisconsin,” concluded Dave Blouin, Political Committee Chair.”

Sierra Club 2014 Environmental Champions:

Senate: Tim Carpenter, Jon Erpenbach, Dave Hansen, Nikiya Harris, Chris Larson, Julie Lassa, John Lehman, Mark Miller, Fred Risser, Jennifer Shilling, Lena Taylor, Kathleen Vinehout, and Robert Wirch.

Assembly: Mandela Barnes, Terese Berceau, Penny Bernard Schaber, Jill Billings, Evan Goyke, Gary Hebl, Dianne Hesselbein, Brett Hulsey, LaTonya Johnson, Fred Kessler, Debra Kolste, Sandy Pasch, SONDY POPE, Janis Ringhand, Melissa Sargent, Katrina Shankland, Chris Taylor, Leon Young, JoCasta Zamarripa and Josh Zepnick.

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Founded in 1892 by John Muir, the Sierra Club is America’s oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization. The Sierra Club’s mission is to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth’s ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out those objectives. The Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter is made up of 15,000 members and supporters from throughout Wisconsin working to promote clean energy and protect land and water resources.