



**For Immediate Release**  
June 4, 2009

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## **State Lawmakers Vote Green in Year of Tough Choices**

Lawmakers Understand that Conservation Boosts Colorado's Economy

Colorado Legislative "Scorecard" Ranks State Legislators according to Their Voting Record on Conservation Issues

Denver – In approving conservation legislation in the midst of an economic downturn, state legislators showed that common-sense environmental policies are now widely accepted as a tool to boost the economy.

“Economic recessions used to be the enemy of conservationists, but now lawmakers understand that passing environmental laws will help the economy in the long and short terms,” says Carrie Doyle, Executive Director of Colorado Conservation Voters. “State lawmakers showed this year that reasonable environmental legislation is one of the building blocks of a healthy economy in Colorado.”

In its “Conservation Scorecard,” Colorado Conservation Voters catalogues votes cast by each state lawmaker on 13 key pieces of legislation in each chamber on a wide range of conservation issues.

Environmental scores by legislators are lower this year than last, but the core agenda of the conservation community cleared the Colorado State Legislature with leadership from the Democrats but also support of key Republicans.

Fifteen state Senators (42 percent of the chamber) voted with conservationists 100 percent of the time.

But there were three zeros this year: Scott Renfroe (0 percent), David Schultheis (0 percent), and Bill Cadman (0 percent). The last time lawmakers received zeros on the scorecard was 2001.

Twenty-seven state Representatives (41 percent of the chamber) voted with conservationists 100 percent of the time.

In terms of results, of the 13 conservation votes in each chamber analyzed in the Scorecard, conservationists lost only once, in a Senate vote on a bill that would have encouraged planning for projected traffic problems.

“Legislators knew that by investing in clean energy, green transportation, and protections from the most harmful impacts of oil-and-gas drilling, they’d be boosting our state’s economy,” said Doyle. “Our political leaders understand this, and so do voters.”

Click here to view the scorecard: <http://coloradoconservationvoters.org/data/scorecards/>

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*Colorado Conservation Voters turns conservation values into Colorado priorities by advocating for strong environmental policies, endorsing conservation-minded candidates, and holding elected officials accountable.*