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**CT League of Conservation Voters Releases
2017 Environmental Scorecard
LEGISLATORS' SCORES DROP DRAMATICALLY**

HARTFORD, CT – The Connecticut League of Conservation Voters (CTLCV) today unveiled scores for this year's legislative session as part of the *2017 Environmental Scorecard*. The *Scorecard* evaluates how Connecticut's 36 Senators and 151 House members handled important environmental issues in the recent legislative session.

The 2017 Scorecard includes votes cast during the regular legislative session, which convened January 4th and adjourned June 7th. This year's session was dominated by fiscal woes and disputes, and Connecticut's environmental priorities were put on the back burner. Environmental wins were modest compared to almost every prior year, and the session ended with a long list of missed opportunities to protect the environment, even with bills that were strongly bipartisan.

“In contrast to recent years, too many members of the state legislature were complicit in attacks on environmental laws that protect our air, water, wildlife and public lands. The increasingly divided political climate made it impossible for good bills to move forward,” said CTLCV Executive Director Lori Brown.

Every inch of progress towards the state's biggest environmental goals was a battleground. Efforts to advance clean energy, statewide water management, protection of public lands, reduced exposure to toxic chemicals, increased recycling, and enforcement of environmental laws did not fare well. Advocates fought for stronger protections, but as the session progressed, they struggled to hold the line against efforts to weaken laws and defund important programs that protect the environment.

This year the Scorecard is being released in Mystic, Connecticut, at the StoneRidge Community Center in honor of David Anderson, a former Connecticut legislator and long-time environmental champion on clean energy and climate change.

“The damage to our world from climate change is a problem that will be with us for the rest of our lives. It is imperative that Connecticut step up its environmental efforts in response to a complete denial of the problem from the Administration and its supporters in Washington,” said Anderson.

The 2017 Scorecard details the voting records of every member of the State Senate and House of Representatives in the most recent legislative session, as well as their lifetime average scores since 2000. This includes both floor votes and committee votes on bills scored by the League. The report provides an analysis of the recent legislative session from the environmental perspective, and flags key issues that remain on the table for 2018.

2017 Pro-Environment Voting Highlights (compared to 2016):

Senate average: 62% (down from 92%)

Senate Democrats: 77% (down from 94%)

Senate Republicans: 47% (down from 89%)

Senators with 100% score: 2 out of 36

House average: 69% (down from 79%)

House Democrats: 78% (down from 86%)

House Republicans: 58% (down from 69%)

House members with 100% score: 7 out of 151

“To enact good environmental laws, we need good people at the state legislature to fight for us,” said Brown. “The Scorecard is our best tool for giving credit where credit is due and holding others accountable for their votes.”

According to CTLCV co-chair, David Bingham, “This session, too many of our legislators failed to appreciate that by not protecting the environment, they are not only hurting the economy, but creating long-term dire problems that will be even more expensive to correct and more difficult to reverse. If our legislators don’t adequately fund and support a functioning DEEP, further delays on inspections and permits will occur, resulting in more toxins, polluted water, and unsafe air.”

The public may learn more about the 2017 session, view the Scorecard, check individual votes, read about the issues, and stay on top of legislative efforts going forward by visiting **www.ctlcv.org**.

The Connecticut League of Conservation Voters helps pass laws that protect our environmental legacy, elects pro-environment candidates to office, informs them on issues, and holds all elected officials accountable for their support of the environment. The League publishes the **Environmental Scorecard** every fall that tracks the votes of legislators in Hartford. The League’s affiliate, CTLCV Ed Fund, conducts programs that engage and inform citizens about our state’s major environmental challenges, including an annual **Environmental Summit** that helps unite advocates and lawmakers around a common agenda.