

## **JOHN EDWARDS RECEIVES KEY ENVIRONMENTAL ENDORSEMENTS**

*Roanoke, VA* – Both the Sierra Club and the Virginia League of Conservation Voters (VALCV) have endorsed incumbent John Edwards in the District 21 Virginia Senate race.

The Sierra Club cited Edwards' commitment to protecting Virginia's natural resources and his efforts to transition the Commonwealth to a clean energy economy. The Virginia League of Conservation Voters' endorsement of Edwards focused on his consistent support of environmental issues in the General Assembly. Both organizations lauded Edwards' opposition to lifting the ban on uranium mining in Virginia.

Additionally, Edwards was named a 2011 "Legislative Hero" by the VALCV. The organization tracks voting records on key environmental, growth and funding proposals, where a vote on a bill illustrates a clear distinction between supporting or not supporting the conservation position. Senator Edwards' voting record in 2011 was 100% pro-conservation. His opponent's score was just 36%.

Edwards was an early proponent of energy efficient buildings, recognizing both the environmental and economic benefits of deploying "green technology" in both new construction and in retrofitting existing buildings. He sponsored the bill in 2007 (SB1051) that permits localities to impose lower tax rates on energy-efficient buildings, acknowledging that tax incentives encourage property owners and developers to implement environmentally friendly building practices.

Senator Edwards helped obtain \$1.5 million in funding for the Claude Moore Education Complex, part of the Roanoke Higher Education Center. The Complex is a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certified building incorporating best practices of construction of "green buildings."

Edwards also sponsored legislation to protect wetlands from dangerous dumping, with the requirement that coal fly-ash used as fill be subject to Virginia's solid waste regulations.

Edwards secured funding for the "Smart Way Connector Bus," which began service to the Amtrak terminal in Lynchburg, linking Blacksburg, Christiansburg and Roanoke to the rail network. The convenience of this service, which began in July 2011, and has far exceeded ridership projections, makes public transportation a viable option for residents of the New River and Roanoke who prefer to leave their cars at home.

For additional information on Senator Edwards' legislative record, visit [www.JohnEdwardsVA.com](http://www.JohnEdwardsVA.com)

For information on:

- The Virginia League of Conservation Voters, [www.VALCV.org](http://www.VALCV.org).
- VALCV endorsements see their Conservation Majority web site <http://conservationmajorityva.org/>
- The Sierra Club, <http://vasierraclub.org/>
- The Claude Moore Education Complex, <http://www.education.edu/events/claudemooore.html>