

Sierra Club Press Release

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Virginia Chapter Sierra Club honors Sen. Edwards with Award

Richmond, VA -- For the first time, the Virginia Chapter Sierra Club voted to recognize members of the General Assembly with awards lauding their work in the Legislature. The Chapter's Legislative Committee voted unanimously to honor Senator John Edwards with the Legislator of the Year Award to recognize his outstanding public service.

On receiving his award on July 3, Senator Edwards offered the following quote, "I am honored to receive this award from the Sierra Club, an organization I admire. Like the Sierra Club, I am interested in developing clean energy, improving the environment, protecting our outdoors and preserving our natural heritage."

The Senator from Roanoke is receiving the Legislator of the Year Award in recognition of his outstanding record of public service and commitment to his constituents and welfare of our Commonwealth. In addition to the leadership he has provided over the years on the Commerce and Labor Committee, in 2013 Senator Edwards patroned a bill that allows customers of Dominion Virginia Power to install solar projects as large as 1 megawatt using a power purchase agreement (PPA) financed by private companies. The law's significance cannot be understated, as the PPA model has been the driver for most solar projects around the country in recent years, making solar energy available with low risk and minimal upfront cost.



"Senator John Edwards has been an unfailing friend to the environment and to the citizens of Southwest Virginia. His intelligence, combined with curiosity and courage, make him a real champion for the entire state," said Dr. Diana Christopulos, a dedicated Sierra Club member.

In the photo L to R are:

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- *Mark McClain (Vice-Chair, Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission & former Chair, Roanoke Group Sierra Club)*
 - *Dan Crawford (Chair, Roanoke Group Sierra Club)*
 - *Senator John S. Edwards*
 - *Diana Christopulos. (President, Roanoke Valley Cool Cities Coalition & former member of Roanoke Group ExCom)*
 - *Rupert Cutler (elder statesman of Roanoke area environmental movement and former Roanoke City Councilman)*
 - *Freeda Cathcart (environmental and political activist - Sierra Club-endorsed candidate for Virginia House of Delegates)*
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