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Racine Earns Vermont League of Conservation Voters GREEN Endorsement

Montpelier, VT – The Vermont League of Conservation Voters (VT LCV) announced today that it has endorsed Senator Doug Racine for Governor.

The VT LCV endorsed Senator Racine based on his deep-seated environmental values and record of achievement in promoting Vermont's environment.

“In every role he has assumed – Senator, Lieutenant Governor, or private citizen - Doug Racine has been a champion on environmental issues” said VT LCV Chairman David Mears. “Senator Racine’s consistency through out his years of service, as well as his depth of knowledge on conservation and environmental issues, made him a clear choice for our endorsement.”

VT LCV’s Board of Directors recently conducted in-depth interviews with the six major party candidates for governor. While most of the candidates impressively expressed their commitment to the state’s environmental concerns, the Board was unanimous in its decision that Senator Racine stood out as the clear leader on the environment.

All of Senator Racine’s responses presented clearly articulated views and forward looking positions on the pivotal issues we face, ranging from clean water and clean energy to the economic importance of our working landscapes.

Senator Racine was also able to point to an impressive record of leadership to back up his stated positions. As Chairman of the Senate Natural Resources Committee early in his political career, he worked closely with Governor Madeleine Kunin in shaping and enacting into law groundbreaking legislation on water, wildlife, land conservation, and other environmental legislation. As the Lieutenant Governor, he helped pass Act 151, the state’s mercury law.

During his time away from public service, he devoted his personal time to working for the improvement of Vermont’s environment and spent years on the Vermont Natural Resource Councils Board of Directors

“During the last eight years, Vermont’s environment has been an afterthought. Vermont's clean-and-green-brand is our greatest asset, and we must focus on maintaining it, even as we grow our economy and plan our post-Vermont Yankee energy future,” Racine explained. “I am proud to accept the endorsement of the VT LCV, and as governor, I will work to keep our high quality of life, which will attract entrepreneurs who want to live here in Vermont.”

The VT LCV's mission is to help elect candidates who have a strong commitment to the environment, and to educate the voters about the voting records of their elected officials. This is the first time in its history that VT LCV is endorsing a gubernatorial candidate before the Primary and committing financial resources in support of that candidate.

“After eight years of drift in our environmental policy under Governor Douglas, we believe this is a pivotal election,” Chair Mears said. “We need a clear change in leadership, and we do not see that coming from Lieutenant Governor Dubie. With Senator Racine, on the other hand, we have the opportunity to elect a governor who is committed to the pressing environmental issues for Vermont's future, and has proven his ability to work across party lines as he did with the former Republican Chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, Arthur Gibb”

In the past, the VT LCV has focused primarily on legislative races. In 2008 it played an integral role in helping three challengers unseat long time incumbents. The VT LCV supported now Representatives Lanpher of Vergennes, Webb of Shelburne, and Wilson of Manchester. In Manchester, with the VT LCV's help, Wilson defeated seven-term incumbent Judy Livingston by a mere five votes.

“Over the past three election cycles we have found out first hand how important these issues are to the voters in Vermont. Issues like climate change, clean energy, and clean water are important to both Primary and General Election Voters. ” said Todd Bailey, executive director of the VT LCV. “As with our work in those legislative races, our support for Senator Racine does not end with this endorsement. This is simply the beginning of our effort to help ensure that Doug Racine is victorious on August 24th and November 2nd. Over the next 8 weeks we will be reaching out to over 30,000 identified Green Voters, and we will be asking them to vote for Doug Racine.” Bailey added.

Currently the Democratic Primary is a five-way competition. Focusing also on each candidate's electability, the Board took into account the other three major endorsements that Senator Racine has recently received.

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