



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

Reid,

I would like to take a moment to thank you for all your support throughout this critical election year and give you a quick update on yesterday's election results.

We can't sugarcoat the fact that we lost too many friends in Congress last night. That is very disappointing, of course, and it means our efforts to move to a clean energy future will be much more challenging.

We saw some successes, in Michigan and New Hampshire, for example, and while other friends we supported were not successful, **this election was not a referendum on climate change. In fact, the national exit polling from last night showed that most voters believe climate change is a "serious problem."**

We've seen voters' concerns about climate change increase with every election since 2010, so much so that climate deniers have shifted from denying climate science to avoiding the issue by proclaiming they are not scientists. They're moving in that direction because the American people believe climate change is a problem that needs a solution.

As I'm sure you know, solving the climate crisis was never a one-election-cycle effort or a short-term proposition.

In fact, **despite a tough political environment, climate and environmental organizations emerged as a major force this election cycle.** Your support as an LCV member, combined with environmental activists across the country, gave the environmental movement the resources we needed to make more than 15 million voter contacts, including knocking on more than 2 million doors (our largest voter contact investment ever). However, it simply wasn't enough to prevail in many places.

But the bottom line is this: Our investment still pales in comparison to how much the fossil fuel industry and their allies spent. We don't have the final numbers yet, but the Koch brothers network alone reportedly planned to spend \$290 million on this election. As a result, we were outspent in key races across the country.

Despite these challenges, we had some very important wins this cycle:

- **In Michigan, Rep. Gary Peters overcame climate science denier and Dirty Dozen member Terri Lynn Land, and is the new Senator-elect.** Energy and climate issues were a big part of the conversation and helped push him to a big lead over the summer — a lead he was able to sustain because of your continued support.
- **In New Hampshire, Senator Jeanne Shaheen took on former Massachusetts Senator Scott Brown — and won!** Scott Brown's deep ties to Big Oil were ultimately rejected by New Hampshire voters who want their elected officials to support clean energy.
- **In the House, newcomer Gwen Graham defeated Dirty Dozen member Rep. Steve Southerland in Florida's 2nd district.** Graham's victory is a big win for clean water

and we're looking forward to working with her in Congress to create bipartisan solutions that grow our clean energy economy.

We expect the year ahead to be challenging as many candidates backed by the Koch brothers and Big Oil enter Congress in January, but it's also an exciting opportunity to keep climate change and other environmental issues at the forefront of the public's mind.

With your continued support, we will defend the environmental progress we have made. We must fight back against attempts by climate change deniers in Congress to roll back sound environmental and public health policies and tie the hands of the EPA. We still have many environmental champions in Congress who will go all out to fight climate change and key opportunities to advance climate initiatives in the states. We still have President Obama in the White House. And we will continue to work with the administration to bring our country closer to a clean energy future.

Again, thank you for all your tremendous support this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and a long, sweeping underline.

Gene Karpinski
League of Conservation Voters

[P.S. Don't forget to check out LCV's Environmental Facebook that highlights four new Senators and 15 new members of the House.](#)