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To: "PA Biodiversity Listserve" <PABIODIV@webmail.upb.pitt.edu>
Subject: Re: PABIODIV: PA Congressional Delegation's Environmental Scores
Date: Sat, 26 Oct 2002 16:41:11 -0400 (EDT)

Senator Specter may have a 52% voting record on environmental issues, but he voted wrong on ALL the major issues. If you check the record on the LCV website, you will see he voted wrong on Trade & Environment; supported Yucca Mountain, a disaster waiting to happen, and one terrorists are probably drooling over; supported a bad Energy Efficiency bill and a worse Fuel Economy bill; voted the wrong way on Drinking Water Protection and liability insurance for nuclear accidents, leaving homeowners with no insurance protection from nuclear accidents; and supported drilling on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Many of these bills he voted wrong on are literally life and death issues, particularly the global warming and nuclear issues.

I've been dealing with this guy since he was first elected, and no one will ever convince me he is an environmental champion. He likes to sit on the fence to see which way the tide is flowing, and if it is obvious that a pro-environment bill is going to pass by a substantial margin, he jumps on the bandwagon. But on the tough issues that are both controversial and critical, he almost always votes anti-environment. Nor is he always to be believed. I could site specifics, but I don't need a lawsuit.

There is always a danger in making decisions just on voting records. Congressman John Murtha is a good example of that. I certainly wish he had voted differently on a number of national issues, especially ANWR. But as a member of the House Appropriations Committee, he has pumped a great deal of federal money into Pennsylvania for local conservation projects and programs, especially for clean water and forestry-related programs.

Len Hess
Chairman, Kiski-Conemaugh River Basin Alliance

The Pennsylvania Biodiversity Listserve encourages open discussion about biodiversity issues in the state. It is hosted by the Allegheny Institute of Natural History, University of Pittsburgh-Bradford and is moderated by the Pennsylvania Biodiversity Partnership. The opinions expressed in messages are those of the authors and NOT the Pennsylvania Biodiversity Partnership.