



Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy Honored For Conservation Leadership

BURLINGTON, Vt. (Aug. 13) – America’s largest conservation organization dedicated to inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children’s future has awarded Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-VT its National Conservation Achievement Award for his extraordinary work on foreign environmental policy. The National Wildlife Federation will honor Senator Leahy at a Shelburne Farms, Vermont reception this evening with more than 200 Vermonters and other guests in attendance.

Long one of the key figures in shaping U.S. foreign environmental policy, Senator Leahy has been a vocal champion for the natural world as Chairman of the Senate Foreign Operations Subcommittee for more than a decade, working to secure sustainable development funding and salvage environmentally-friendly policy even when in the minority. He was also an original co-sponsor of the Global Warming Pollution Reduction Act, in 2007.

“Senator Leahy has been a long-time ally of the conservation movement, whether fighting for strong action against carbon pollution when such talk was unpopular among some of his colleagues or, in recent days, speaking out in favor of stricter corporate accountability in the wake of the BP oil spill,” said National Wildlife Federation President and CEO Larry Schweiger. “He has consistently been a major figure in the push for true U.S. leadership on combating global warming, and National Wildlife Federation is honored to be able to recognize his contributions.”

“I am humbled to receive this prestigious award from the National Wildlife Federation,” Leahy said. “Vermonters understand the importance of conserving biodiversity and working landscapes, and protecting our climate, for the benefit of our state, country and planet, and I work hard to bring those values to Washington.”

As a Conservationist of the Year, Senator Leahy joins the ranks of previous winners that include former Vice President Al Gore, former President Jimmy Carter, and former First Lady, Lady Bird Johnson.

Before his election to the Senate in 1974, Senator Leahy served for eight years as State's Attorney in Chittenden County, Vermont, gaining plaudits as one of the nation’s finest prosecutors. As a national-level legislator, he has followed through on that early promise, opposing oil and gas companies’ attempts to drill in Alaska’s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and Vermont’s Missisquoi Wildlife Refuge and leading the charge against mercury pollution. Senator Leahy has also sponsored the Farmland Protection Program and Forest Legacy Program,

among other national conservation initiatives, and worked to clean up Lake Champlain and expand the Green Mountain National Forest on the home front.

Senator Leahy has spent his life as a public servant acting on the environmental conscience of the people of Vermont. He is one of the most respected members of the Senate, and a model of congressional leadership and responsibility his colleagues would do well to follow.

The [National Wildlife Federation](http://www.nwf.org) is America's conservation organization inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future.

For Immediate Release

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