



FORESTS FOREVER

50 First St. Suite 401, San Francisco, California 94105

Phone: 415/974-3636 FAX: 415/974-3664

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Contact:

*Paul Hughes, executive director: (415) 974-4201; paul@forestsforever.org
Marc Lecard, communications manager: (415) 974-4202; marc@forestsforever.org*

Jerry McNerney defeats Richard Pombo!

Upset of anti-environmental congressman a victory for the planet
Democrat Jerry McNerney defeated incumbent Republican Rep. Richard Pombo in California's District 11 congressional election yesterday in a stunning victory for forests and environmental protection efforts nationwide.

With 100 percent of precincts reporting, McNerney had 53 percent of the vote to Pombo's 47 percent.

"McNerney's victory is a win for forests, for endangered species, for clean air, clean water, and clean politics," said Paul Hughes, executive director of Forests Forever. "Richard Pombo represented the oil companies, the timber industry and the big developers. Jerry McNerney will represent the people of his district.

"McNerney is committed to conservation and the environment, to renewable energy and a sustainable future. He is exactly the kind of representative we need to clean up the mess left by Richard Pombo."

McNerney, a wind power engineer and owner of an alternative energy company, sees the need to stop burning fossil fuels as an opportunity for developing new energy technologies. Reducing California's dependence on oil can lead to new industries and new jobs, he says, as well as addressing global warming and air pollution.

McNerney will bring his ideas and experience to a Democratic Congress now open to environmental legislation, long blocked by extremist politicians like Pombo.

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“For starters, we are looking forward to having our bill to protect the giant sequoias from rapacious logging heard for the first time early in the new Congress,” Hughes said. “Pombo-backed efforts to drill for oil off the California coast, weaken the Endangered Species Act, and gut the National Environmental Policy Act appear to be doomed for the foreseeable future.”

Long critical of Pombo’s hostility to environmental legislation, Forests Forever endorsed McNerney’s candidacy in August, and since then rallied its supporters to volunteer in District 11 as precinct walkers to register voters and turn out the vote on Election Day. Working with Defenders of Wildlife Action Fund, the Sierra Club and other groups, Forests Forever volunteers helped make the difference that resulted in McNerney’s victory.

“All Forests Forever’s supporters who helped with this win have earned our heartfelt thanks,” Hughes said.

“Pombo’s decisive election defeat should send a warning to anti-environmental politicians that American voters care about issues such as global warming, roadless forests, wilderness protection, and alternative energy.”

“Rep. Jerry McNerney will be a positive voice for conservation in the U.S. Congress.”