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Senate candidate Schaffer makes "dirty dozen" list

The Rocky

Originally published 04:50 p.m., January 24, 2008
Updated 04:51 p.m., January 24, 2008

The League of Conservation Voters has put Colorado's Republican U.S. Senate candidate Bob Schaffer on its 2008 nationwide "dirty dozen" list of pollution-friendly politicians.

The announcement marks an early salvo in what national observers expect to be a hot race. It also means the national environmental group will pour substantial money into the contest between Schaffer, a Republican, and his Democratic challenger, Congressman Mark Udall.

Schaffer, while a congressman, "worked to get Big Oil $33 million in tax breaks ... After leaving the House, he went to work for Big Oil. Now he wants to return to Washington to work for them in the Senate," said Tony Massaro, a top LCV official and Colorado native.

"Coloradans deserves a senator who works for them, not Big Oil."

LCV said Schaffer scored a 5 percent lifetime rating on its voting scorecard, voting for a "Bush-Cheney energy plan" that included $33 billion in tax breaks for industry, voting against an amendment to increase funding for energy efficiency and against fuel efficiency standards for automobiles, among several examples listed in the group's announcement.

"Every time he had (Schaffer) sided with polluters, developers and Big Oil and against the environment and the health and safety of Coloradans," Massaro said.

The group said Schaffer now works for Aspect Energy, a company involved in oil, gas and coal development.

Messages left for Schaffer and his campaign consultant, Walt Klein, were not returned.

Political analyst Eric Sondermann said LCV's involvement is "another indication this will be a targeted race on the national scene.

"It's no surprise that the national environmental community is rallying to Mark Udall's cause," Sondermann said. "And the whole dirty dozen motif that LCV has adopted provides a nice sound bit, and nice visual imagery for putting the negative hit job on candidates they don't like."

Colorado Republicans are no strangers to the list.

U.S. Sen. Wayne Allard has made it twice and was elected both times. Former U.S. Rep. Bob Beauprez was also listed twice, surviving in his House race but losing in his 2006 gubernatorial race against Bill Ritter. Greg Walcher was also listed and lost the 2004 congressional race to John Salazar.

LCV listed Schaffer as No. 3 on its list. Schaffer joins Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., and Rep. Joe Knollenberg, R-Mich., who were named to the 2008 list.

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COMMENTS

Posted by BikerChick on January 24, 2008 at 6:13 p.m. (Suggest removal)

Wow! That is fascinating.

Meanwhile the "global Warming" myth swirls and the credibility of the source of this article likewise swirls.

When the Rocky prints an equal-and-opposite piece by someone like Rush Limbaugh, then readers will have basis for balanced awareness.

Meanwhile, the BLATANTLY unbalanced POLITICAL piece above slants the Denver reader awareness. Is that intentional?

Posted by a_watcher on January 24, 2008 at 8:20 p.m. (Suggest removal)

Which will make a greater negative impression - dead forests or some silly list produced by the folks most responsible for the dead forests?

Green (or is it now Brown?) propaganda will be a lot harder to sell in Colorado for the next few years given the forest die off.

Posted by lcdrjjxant on January 24, 2008 at 10:06 p.m. (Suggest removal)

Where does Schaffer rank on the GOP's pro-Iraq-NAM-War list? Mitt, and Rudy are

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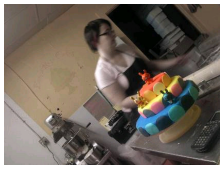

An old joke says that a bar without alcohol is just a bench. But what if the bar served you fresh gourmet cupcakes or your favorite kind of cereal topped with anything your inner child could dream up?

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