THE ENVIRONMENT

Congressman Paul Tsongas can tell you what he's done.



The Record

- * Has voted right on every key environmental issue rated by the League of Conservation Voters for his entire Congressional career. In 1975, Paul Tsongas was one of only three House members with a 100% rating. Two Tsongas amendments were used by the League in 1977 as part of the basis for rating Members of Congress.
- * Authored the only successful strengthening amendments to the Alaska Lands Act and was recognized as a driving force in preventing erosion of the bill, one of the most important environmental bills of the decade.
- * As a member of the Select Ad-Hoc Committee on Energy, introduced two successful amendments to the National Energy Act requiring conservation studies of the effectiveness of bicycles for commuting in urban areas and potential measures for reducing gasoline consumption by off-road recreational vehicles.
- * Authored six amendments providing increased funding for solar energy and solar-derived renewable energy resources, including a major photovoltaic cell amendment which is expected to make cells which turn sunlight into electricity more cost competitive.
- * Has consistently and strongly opposed the Clinch River Breeder Reactor project, extension of liability limits on nuclear accidents contained in the Price-Anderson Act, and the Nuclear Fuel Assurance Act. Helped lead the fight to reform nuclear oversight by wresting control from the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy. Recognized as a tough critic of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
- * An original cosponsor and member of the House-Senate conference committees of both the Udall strip-mining control bill and legislation to expand the Redwoods National Park. Played an instrumental role in the final shaping and passage of both bills.
- * Has consistently opposed the construction of the proposed Dickey-Lincoln Dams project on the St. Lawrence River in Maine. Played an important role in successfully blocking construction of a dam on the environmentally important New River in North Carolina.
- * Fought to bring the Northeast Solar Energy Center, now located in Cambridge, to Massachusetts.
- * Authored a successful amendment to strengthen the role of the Assistant Secretary on Environmental Affairs in the Department of Energy to assure that programs receive a tough environmental review before approval.
- * Strongly supported President Carter's efforts to eliminate 16 federal water projects.
- * Authored legislation, supported by a coalition of environmental groups, to raise grazing fees on public lands.
- * Authored an amendment to the strip mining legislation to protect prime agricultural lands from strip mining.

Proposals

* Will attempt to lead efforts to pass a strong Alaska Lands bill in the Senate. Paul Tsongas has been greatly disappointed by the failure of the Senate to follow the lead of the House in passing sound legislative protection for the wild and scenic lands of Alaska.