

Congressman
John W. Oliver



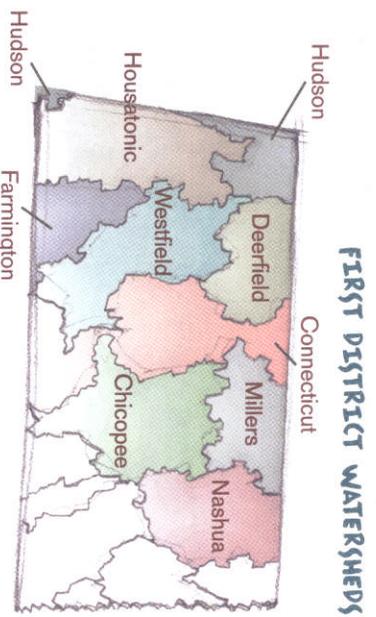
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES UPDATE – SPRING 2006

To help improve the quality of life in western and north central Massachusetts, I've used my position on the House of Representatives' Appropriations Committee to secure funding for these local environmental initiatives:



— RIVERS RUN THROUGH IT —

- Wildlife habitat restoration and flood water control along the Hoosic River in Adams - \$500,000 in federal earmarked funds
- Control of Holyoke and other communities' sewer overflow into the Connecticut River - \$6.97 million in federal earmarked funds
- Land acquisition along the Connecticut River for the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge - \$4 million in federal earmarked funds
- Research at Conte Anadromous Fish Lab in Turner Falls - \$185,000 in federal earmarked funds



FIRST DISTRICT WATERSHEDS



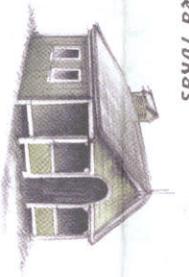
GREAT FALLS DISCOVERY CENTER

- Construction of the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turner Falls - \$1.05 million in federal earmarked funds
- Wildlife habitat and public access improvements to the Nashua River in Fitchburg - \$400,000 in federal earmarked funds

— BEAUTIFUL, NATURAL MASSACHUSETTS —
FOREST AND TRAILWAYS PROJECTS

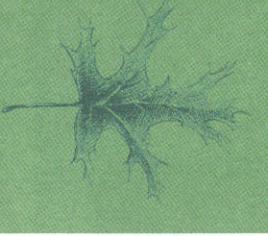
- Permanent preservation of 3,350 acres of forestland in the North Quabbin region - \$3.7 million in federal earmarked funds

OLD PEPPERELL SPRING HOUSE



• Permanent protection of Pepperell Springs Forest in Pepperell - \$1.4 million in federal earmarked funds

- Assessment of the Pioneer Valley's Metacomet-Monadnock-Mattabesett trail for possible inclusion in the National Scenic Trail system - \$200,000 in federal earmarked funds
- Improvements to the Connecticut River Scenic Farm Byway from Sunderland to Northfield - \$1.9 million in federal earmarked funds
- Reduction of invasive plant species across 10,000 acres of forested uplands on the Berkshire Taconic plateau - \$900,000 in federal earmarked funds

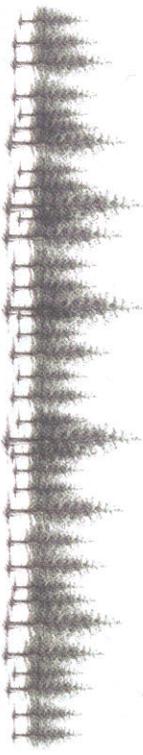


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Budget Battles In The House

This year I am also using my position on the Appropriations Committee to OPPOSE a number of the aspects of the President's proposed Fiscal Year 2007 budget, including provisions to:

- STOP** Sell 300,000 acres of National Forest lands and 500,000 acres of BLM lands to timber, mining and oil companies and other interests.
- STOP** Cut the EPA's budget by \$304 million.
- STOP** Cut wastewater treatment facility funding by \$199 million, or 22%. (If enacted, this would represent a 49% reduction over the last three years.)
- STOP** Cut funding for National Parks and their facilities development by \$100 million.
- STOP** Cut ocean and coastal science and management funding by \$275 million.
- STOP** Assume oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve.



Sounding The Alarm On Endangered Species Act Changes

Earlier this Congress, the House (only) passed, over my strong objection, H.R. 3824, a bill that would change the way the Endangered Species Act is administered. The changes would:

- STOP** Allow species recovery plans to go un-enforced.
- STOP** Allow political appointees at federal agencies to decide what constitutes sound science.
- STOP** Exempt potentially harmful (to wildlife) pesticides from regulation.

Without the strong protections we've had in place for the last 30 years, the bald eagle, peregrine falcon and manatee might no longer be found in the U.S. I will continue to fight weakening the ESA.



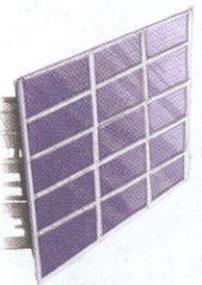
Supporting A Pro-Environment Legislative Agenda



I've co-sponsored the following measures introduced in the 109th Congress:

H.R. 1356, the Clean Water Authority Restoration Act – clarifies that the Clean Water Act applies to all “waters of the United States” (instead of just “navigable waters,” as the statute now reads).

H.R. 3563, the National Forest System Roadless Area Conservation Act – protects inventoried roadless areas in National Forests from logging or development.



H.R. 983, renewable power legislation – requires that private electric power suppliers produce at least 20% of their electricity from renewable sources by 2027.

Climate Change Action in Congress

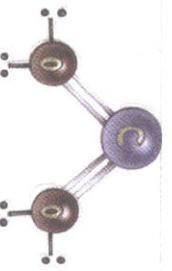


Five years ago, Republican Congressman Wayne Gilchrest (MD) and I formed the bipartisan Congressional Climate Change Caucus, a forum to promote policies to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide (CO₂). Today, there are 76 members of the Caucus.



Alarming CO₂ Trends

The atmospheric concentration of CO₂ is currently one-third higher than it has been at any time in the 400,000 years prior to 1850.



The atmospheric concentration of CO₂ is now rising at a rate of almost 1% per year. With only 5% of the earth's population, the U.S. contributes 25% of the CO₂ produced worldwide.

Our Atmosphere is Warming

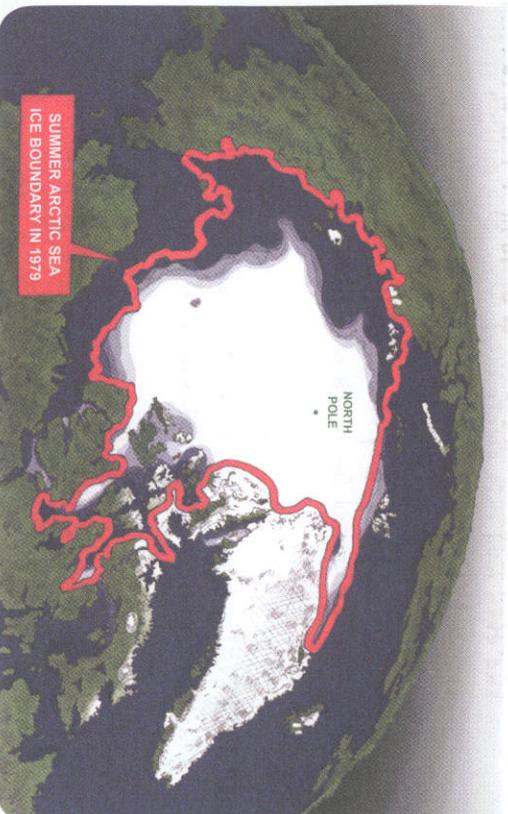
Over the last 100 years, global temperatures have risen about 1 degree Fahrenheit. Models show temperatures climbing more rapidly in the future, and dramatic signs of warming already confront us:



The Greenland ice sheet loses a cubic kilometer of (frozen) water every 40 hours. (*Science*, Vol. 311, pp. 986-990)



Each year, the Antarctic ice sheet loses the approximate amount of (frozen) water that the entire U.S. population consumes in 3 months. (*Science*, Vol. 311, pp. 1754-1756)



Since 1979, more than 20% of the Polar Ice Cap has melted away.

Source: Natural Resources Defense Council 2005, from NASA photographs

Many climate change scientists believe that global warming could shift temperate zones, rainfall patterns and agricultural belts. Dramatic changes in global climate could increase severe storms and cause flooding, loss of coastal lands, drought, famine and the spread of disease.

Promoting Policies to Reduce Emissions

Along with Congressman Gilchrest, I have introduced the Climate Stewardship Act, a market-based proposal to permanently cap U.S. emissions of greenhouse gases at 2000 levels by 2010.

I have also proposed that we increase the fuel economy of automobiles and establish an accurate inventory of and registry system for industrial greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S.

Additionally, I support increasing energy efficiency and our use of renewable energy. The Climate Change Caucus promotes the development of biomass, geothermal, wind and solar energy technologies.



U.S. Areas Under Water If All Polar Ice Melts

Source: University of Florida, Agricultural & Biological Engineering Department, Biology for Engineers I course materials 2005

Bike Paths Are Booming in the First Congressional District

To help clear our air and our roads, and to give more residents the chance to enjoy the outdoors, I've secured funding for numerous bicycle trails across our region:

Ashuwillticook bike trail from Laneshoro to Cleshire, with planned extension to Adams - \$8 million in federal earmarked funds

Franklin County bikeway system, including the Canalside trail in Deerfield and Montague, the Northfield connector trail and the Riverside Greenway in Greenfield - \$2 million in federal earmarked funds



Hampshire County bike path system, including the UMass-Norwottuck rail trail connector, the Mahan rail trail in Easthampton and various connectors throughout the City of Northampton - \$8.15 million in federal earmarked funds

New Westfield-Southwick 9.5-mile multi-use trail - \$4 million in federal earmarked funds

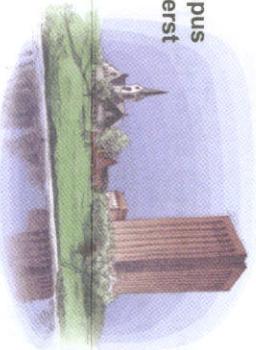


North Central Pathway rail trail from Gardner to Wickendon - \$1.45 million in federal earmarked funds

Help for Local Environmental Research and Education Initiatives

For a greener future, I've assisted with funding for these clean energy and environmental science projects:

UMass campus
in Amherst



At UMass - Amherst » \$1.2 million in federal earmarked funds for environmental micro-biological energy harvesting research (converting organic wastes, renewable biomass and even mud into electricity) AND \$1.5 million in federal earmarked funds for the Climate Change Research Center

At Mount Wachusett Community College » \$1 million in federal earmarked funds for a wind energy demonstration project AND \$2 million in federal earmarked funds for conversion of the college's heating and cooling system to a biomass power plant

At Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) » \$160,000 in federal earmarked funds to establish the Berkshires Environmental Resources Center (in co-op with Environmental Studies program)

ALSO » \$400,000 for solar energy usage outreach by the Center for Ecological Development in Pittsfield; \$1.7 million for the New England Green Chemistry Consortium (at six New England land grant universities); and \$50,000 for alternative fuel and paratransit buses/computer vehicles in the Pioneer Valley

For more information and to sign up for my e-newsletters and e-news updates, visit me at:

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