
U.S. Representative

John Spratt

South Carolina ■ 5th District

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Sierra Club Praises Spratt for Voting to Protect Environment

WASHINGTON — The Sierra Club has praised U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) for voting to remove anti-environmental provisions in legislation that funds National Parks, environmental protections, and land management efforts. The association also thanked Spratt for voting against the overall bill, which provides inadequate funding to the U.S. Department of Interior, hampering critically needed natural resource conservation programs.

“Land and water conservation and protecting our national parks are top priorities of mine in Congress,” said Spratt, “and I will continue to oppose bills that weaken these programs.”

“Rep.Spratt voted against a shameful bill that could seriously damage efforts to protect our land, air and water,” said Melanie Griffin, Director of Sierra Club's Public Land Protection Program. “Rep.Spratt courageously took a stand against anti-environmental riders and voted against the special-interest giveaways to polluting industries.”

The appropriations bill that passed the House on June 15 provides the Interior Department with \$300 million less than was budgeted in fiscal year 2000 and provides \$1.7 billion less than the amount requested by President Clinton. Additionally, the bill includes anti-environmental riders aimed at undercutting existing environmental protections, such as prohibiting funding for the protection of America's rivers.

Spratt and other supporters of the environment won a victory during consideration of the bill, however, when they removed a ban on spending money to plan, design, or manage any National Monuments designated by the President after 1999.

Spratt is often recognized for his pro-environmental record. Recently, the National Parks and Conservation Association honored Spratt with its “Friend of National Parks” award. Association President Thomas Kiernan commended Spratt, saying, “Our national parks rely on Congress for protection under law and adequate funding. John Spratt has stood up for the places that symbolize America's history and its natural wonder.”

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