SIERRA CLUB

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2010 Candidate Questionnaire

In order to ensure a timely evaluation of your responses as well as speed the endorsement process, we request that you answer all questions in an electronic format (Microsoft Word documents preferred). Please be sure to number your responses according to the question being answered.

Your responses will be considered privileged and confidential, will NOT be posted for public viewing, or released to the public, and will only be seen by Sierra Club volunteers and staff.

Please provide the information requested below.

Candidate Name: David Hoffman

State: Illinois

District: United States Senate

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP

The Sierra Club is America's oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization with more than 1.3 million members and supporters nationwide. It works to elect candidates who will lead the fight to protect our communities and natural surroundings and to enact pro-environmental initiatives. Candidates supported by the Sierra Club include those who help our country create a clean energy economy and address global warming and who champion legislation to protect our air, water, and wild places.

1) What has been your greatest environmental achievement?

As an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Chicago, I led and supervised numerous investigations with EPA criminal agents into serious violations of the federal environmental laws, including egregious actions by companies that dumped massive amounts of hazardous waste into local sewer systems in order to save money. These investigations led to high-level corporate officials being convicted and held accountable financially for their crimes. Subsequently, as Inspector General of Chicago, our office conducted successful investigations into efforts to illegally dump hazardous waste in the City's landfills, with the complicity of City workers.

I strongly believe in social justice, and environmental justice is an important part of that. As someone who grew up with asthma, I became alarmed years ago by the increasingly high rates of asthma in low-income, minority communities – a development clearly caused by an increase in industrial pollution in those areas. I became involved in the American Lung Association of Metropolitan Chicago (ALAMC), and was selected to its Board of Directors. I served on the Board for several years during the time that the ALAMC became a local leader in pushing the worst-polluting plants to clean up their emissions, and in pushing for laws that protect these communities from polluting industry.

2) If elected, how will you provide environmental leadership and on what issues will you focus your efforts?

My wife and I are passionate about protecting our natural, open spaces and our wildlife, about conserving our resources, and about protecting our planet from the ravages of pollution and emissions caused by short-sighted, old-school practices. I will speak out strongly about the critical importance of investing in the protection of our environment, and push for the enactment of tougher rules – and for their equally tough enforcement – to help reverse our disastrously high levels of carbon emissions, other pollution, and inefficient energy use.

Among other issues, I will:

- *Actively promote an ambitious transition to cleaner, more efficient, renewable energy technologies, including strong support for the rapid advancement of wind and solar power technology, and support for programs that increase the use of mass transit;*
- *Be a leader in protecting the environmental health of the Great Lakes and Illinois' shoreline;*
- *Focus on issues of environmental justice to ensure that lower-income communities are not treated unfairly on environmental issues;*
- *Push for protection of our open spaces and for policies that provides incentives for conservation;*
- *Push for new policies that create strict incentives for businesses, developers, farms, and governments to conserve resources, to incorporate renewable-energy sources into their operations in widespread, standardized ways, and to use their spaces in ways that enhance environmental protection including green roofs and agricultural "filter strips"; and*
- *Focus on better enforcement of existing laws, including adequate funding of EPA and other agencies with environmental enforcement responsibilities.*

MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND CREATING A CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY

Putting America on a path to lead the world in addressing climate change and creating a clean energy economy is the greatest challenge facing our elected leaders. The 111th Congress has begun work on comprehensive climate and energy legislation, but it is only the first step necessary to create a clean energy economy, address climate change, protect the planet and assure a strong US economy in a carbon constrained world.

Meeting the challenge of global warming will require reducing emissions, reforming our energy policies and making investments that will jumpstart clean energy technology, improve our economy and enhance fairness and justice.

Clean Energy Economy

Though the Congress has recently passed significant bills to advance clean energy policies and investments, and has made substantial progress in advancing legislation to tackle global warming, the 112th Congress will need to build on that progress. Congress must continue to exert its authority to meet the targeted 80% reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and will need to take action to assure that our nation is on a path to achieve a 20% reduction by 2020 to achieve that goal.

3) Would you support a science-based cap on global warming pollution and other actions to cut carbon emissions at least 80% by 2050? *Yes.*

Will you support a strong regulatory framework to ensure that these reduction targets are met? *Yes.*

Will you vote to ratify a fair international climate treaty if the Administration negotiates a deal in Copenhagen? *Yes.*

4) Would you support directing revenues from carbon permits toward public benefits such as creating clean energy jobs, minimizing impacts on low income communities and ensuring the development of clean energy technologies rather than windfall profits for polluters? *Yes.*

Will you support funding for international mitigation and adaptation? *Yes.*

5) Would you support a national Renewable Electricity Standard of 25% by 2025? *Yes.*

6) Would you support legislation to increase electric energy efficiency 15% by 2020 and natural gas energy efficiency 10% by 2020? *Yes.*

Will you support and promote energy efficient appliance and lighting standards, tax incentives for energy efficiency and renewable energy? *Yes.*

Which policies will you make priorities?

All of the policies and issues described above are important in moving toward a cleaner, more energy-efficient society. I believe deeply in the importance of pushing for rapid technological development regarding renewable energy sources. Given the importance of moving toward clean, renewable energy sources for our ***nation's and the planet's environment health, and for our national security, I believe it is imperative t****hat the government play a leading role here. I would also strongly support new efforts to enact policies that create standards and strong incentives for businesses and consumers to reduce pollution and energy use.*

7) Illinois has more nuclear power plants, and therefore nuclear waste, than any state in the country. What is your position on nuclear power?

We must continue to assiduously monitor existing nuclear facilities to assure public safety, and take a cautious approach to requests to extend the life of existing facilities beyond their current licenses. We must find safe off-site disposal repositories for existing nuclear waste. I would be reluctant to support licensing of another generation of nuclear power plants until existing issues relating to mining, operations and waste disposal are better addressed. Recognizing the threat of climate change and the need for low carbon energy, I would support continued research for safer mining, use and disposal of nuclear matter.

What is your position on taxpayer subsidies for nuclear power plants?

Nuclear power facilities should compete against other power sources without the unfair advantage of taxpayer subsidies.

Ending our Dependence on Coal

Coal-fired power plants are the single largest source of global warming pollution. Coal provides about half of our electricity and more than 30% of U.S. global warming pollution. As currently mined and burned, it causes asthma and other health problems, destroys our mountains, creates ash waste ponds that threaten local communities, and releases toxic mercury into our air, water and food. Continuing our dependence on coal chains us to dirty energy and prevents us from making the changes we need to bring about a clean, secure energy future.

8) Would you support actions to require that all power plants, including those powered by coal, be cleaned up, and establish emission limits at least equivalent to levels achieved by the cleanest such plants (combined cycle natural gas)? *Yes. I support measures to require that all coal plants utilize best available control technologies (BACT), and that we support programs that help coal plants transition as rapidly as possible to the cleanest-possible production methods.*

Will you support legislation to require new plants meet stringent carbon standards from the day they open, and that old plants be brought up to this standard when they have been operating for 50 years? *Yes. And it is important to support programs that help coal plants transition as rapidly as possible to the cleanest-possible production methods as stated above.*

9) Would you oppose federal subsidies for power plants that do not actually capture and sequester at least 85% of their carbon emissions? *Yes, although I would support programs to provide financial assistance to power plants in order to help them transition to either the 85% capture-and-sequester rate or a greener, renewable type of energy production. It is of critical importance that we support research and development that will develop more effective carbon capture and sequestration technologies.*

10) Would you support the regulation of toxic coal ash as a hazardous waste? *Yes.*

Promoting Green Transportation

Throughout the past century, inefficient cars and trucks, an overwhelming dependence on cheap oil, and sprawling development have driven up global warming pollution. Today the transportation sector accounts for roughly one-third of US greenhouse gas emissions. The next Congress will have tremendous opportunities to build a transportation system for the 21st century that relies on efficient vehicles, lower-carbon fuels, and smart growth that emphasizes transportation choices.

11) Would you support a low carbon fuel standard to reduce the carbon-intensity of transportation fuels by 15% below 2005 levels and other policies to prevent increased use of dirty fuels, including those derived from tar sands, oil shale or liquid coal? *Yes. I look forward to working with the Sierra Club to better understand the availability of technologies and costs required meeting the specific goal of 15% below 2005 levels.*

12) Would you support legislation that will set targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from travel through directing a greater percentage of transportation dollars toward transportation options such as rail, transit, bike and pedestrian infrastructure? *Yes.*

Would you support policies that promote smart, integrated land use and development and repair existing infrastructure before building new roads? *Yes.*

13) Would you support legislation that requires increased fuel efficiency and stringent greenhouse gas standards for new cars and trucks? *Yes.*

14) What is your position on the proposed Peotone airport? ***I am very concerned about the adverse impact that such a large development would have on the environment and open spaces. If the Chicago-area was in desperate need of a third airport for its economic health and to address unmet transportation needs, then there might be a stronger argument for the airport. But I am not convinced that this is the case, especially in light of O'Hare expansion activities and the evidence of under-use at the Gary airport.***

SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Our communities can and should be safe, healthy places to live and raise children – with clean air and water, and free from the dangers of toxic pollution. We can achieve this goal by enforcing environmental laws, requiring polluting industries to use modern pollution control technology, and investing in infrastructure to clean up and prevent pollution.

We should require that all polluters, including older power plants and factories, use available pollution control technology to reduce soot and smog-forming pollution, and control toxic emissions such as mercury.

As with air pollution, the Clean Water Act has made great strides toward providing all Americans with drinkable, fishable, and swimmable water. But two Supreme Court decisions, followed by federal guidance issued in 2007, limit the definition of "waters of the United States" under the Clean Water Act to exclude from protection many wetlands, intermittent streams, small lakes and ponds. Congress must ensure that the Clean Water Act provides broad protection to our waters, as Congress originally intended, including wetlands and small streams. Congress must also act to prevent the destruction of streams in Appalachia, which are being buried with waste from mountaintop removal mining. We must dramatically increase public investment in clean water, providing adequate resources for states and local governments to maintain wastewater and drinking water facilities.

Since the Superfund's original polluter-pays funding mechanism expired in 1995 and the Trust Fund became bankrupt, the number of toxic waste site cleanups has steadily declined. As a result, communities must continue to live with health and environmental threats from the nation's most dangerous toxic waste sites.

15) Would you favor having the Congress restore protection for such bodies of water as headwaters streams, wetlands, and prairie potholes, so that the Clean Water Act protects the same waters as it did when Congress passed it in 1972? *Yes.*

16) Would you support legislation that protects streams and waterways from coal-mining waste? *Yes.*

17) Would you support legislation to restore the Superfund's polluter-pays funding mechanism? *Yes.*

AMERICA'S WILD LEGACY

Americans enjoy a rich natural heritage of parks, monuments, forests, wilderness and wildlife, but this legacy is being threatened by climate change impacts, expanded oil and gas development, and other unchecked industrial activity. For the last decade, the oil industry has attempted to gain access to drill for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge – one of America's greatest wild natural treasures. More recently, they have set their sights on offshore drilling in America's Outer Continental Shelf. Drilling in the Arctic Refuge or off of our coasts would cause irreparable harm to the environment, damage valuable wildlife habitat, impact indigenous communities, and hurt local economies.

Climate change is already taking a toll on America's natural heritage. Bird migrations are becoming more unpredictable, numbers of caribou, moose and bighorn sheep are dwindling in some regions and fish kills resulting from rising water temperatures are becoming more common. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "the warming of the earth could potentially have more far reaching impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat than any challenge that has come before us."

Over half of America's National Forests have been severely impacted and fragmented by road construction and irresponsible logging practices. The remaining wild forest lands are critical for fish and wildlife, recreational opportunities and clean water. Moreover, roadless areas provide vital habitat for threatened and endangered species further imperiled by the effects of global warming. Protecting wild forests and other wildlife habitat is essential to assisting wildlife's ability to adapt to those changes.

Illinois' only national forest, the Shawnee National Forest, represents our state's largest public land holding and a tremendous recreational asset and natural resource. Currently, there are seven areas of the Shawnee recognized as Wilderness areas, forever protecting them from exploitation and preserving them for future generations. Three additional areas on the Shawnee are worthy of wilderness protection, and action by Congress is necessary to do so. Another important issue for the Shawnee relates to all terrain vehicles. The personal safety of users of the Forest, and the natural areas within it, have been threatened by improper use of off-road vehicles and other illegal activity.

Increased demand for outdoor recreation has led to a need for a designated trail system on the Shawnee National Forest to protect the resource. The Forest Service has done a good job of designing and constructing trails that minimize erosion, run-off, and damage from horse use. The trail system needs to be completed forest-wide and maintained into the future.

Several areas within the Shawnee National Forest purchase boundary are critical to the viability of several species of animals, birds, and plants. The Forest Service would like to be able to purchase these lands as they become available and restore them to their original habitats.

18. Do you support federal Wilderness designation for Ripple Hollow, Burke Branch, and Camp Hutchins areas in the Shawnee National Forest? *Yes.*

19. Given increased lawlessness in the Shawnee National Forest, particular by off-road vehicle users, will you actively support increased appropriations for law enforcement in the Shawnee National Forest? *Yes.*

20. Given the need for a designated trail system in Shawnee National Forest,do you support sufficient appropriations to build and maintain such a system? *Yes.*

21. Given the need for habitat for vanishing species, do you support appropriations for critical habitat land purchases in the Shawnee National Forest? *Yes.*

22. Would you support increased federal funding for protecting Illinois natural areas as National Wildlife Refuges, including the proposed Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge in McHenry County, and Grand Kankakee Marsh National Wildlife Refuge along the Kankakee River? *Yes.*

ENSURING A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Our planet is now home to more than 6.7 billion people. The rate at which we consume and degrade natural resources jeopardizes the health of the environment and threatens the availability of clean water and air for generations to come. Currently, 1.1 billion people consume unclean water while 90-95% of all sewage and 70% of all industrial wastes are dumped untreated into surface waters. We have decreased the planet's forest cover by almost one-half and increased carbon dioxide emissions in the atmosphere by over 30% to reach the highest levels the planet has ever seen.

These harsh environmental realities are compounded by the demographic predictions that in the next fifty years the number of people on the planet will increase to over 9 billion. All of our environmental successes may be short-lived if they do not include efforts to address population growth. Ensuring access to voluntary family planning services, increasing women and girls' access to basic rights, including health care, education and economic opportunity, and curbing our consumption of natural resources, is necessary if we wish to achieve a more sustainable environmental future.

23) Would you support a funding increase for international/domestic family planning and comprehensive sexuality education programs? Why or why not? *Yes. I strongly support funding for safe, effective family planning for domestic and international programs; and I support culturally appropriate international sexuality education programs as well. In addition to environmental gains, such measures are investments that pay off in healthier children, stronger families, improved educational opportunities and stronger economies. Smaller families in developing nations* ***lead to shifts in attitudes that support women's rights and*** *lead to more likely development of stronger democratic societies.*

PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE TRADE

The transformation to a clean energy economy can create millions of new jobs and reinvigorate our existing manufacturing sector with new products, like wind turbines and solar panels, and expand the need for basic raw materials like steel, aluminum, and cement. The Sierra Club believes that we can create these jobs in the United States and rebuild our middle class if we adopt the right trade and development policies. We believe U.S. climate legislation must include safeguards that prevent companies in energy-intensive industries from closing their U.S. facilities and moving to countries without climate protection measures.

24) Would you support efforts to ensure that industries integral to our nation's manufacturing base are not put at a competitive disadvantage while we strive to reduce global warming pollution and grow our clean energy economy? *Yes. This is of critical importance if we are to strike the right balance as a nation between*

having strong environmental policies and not driving industries to high-polluting locations around the world causing American workers to lose their jobs.