



NEWS RELEASE

Sierra Club John Muir Chapter
222 South Hamilton St, Madison, WI 53703
(608) 256-0565 <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org>
www.facebook.com/sierraclubwi Twitter: SierraClubWi

For Immediate Release: January 16, 2012

**Contact: Elizabeth Ward, Conservation Programs
Coordinator, (608) 445-4489**

Dave Blouin, Political Chair, (608) 220-8819

Shahla M. Werner, Director (608) 332-6079

Motivated by Governor Walker's Environmental Attacks, Sierra Club Members Collect Over 5,000 Recall Signatures

Madison, WI—As the signature collecting phase comes to a close, Sierra Club members joined United Wisconsin's campaign to contribute over 5,000 signatures to the historic effort to recall Governor Walker. Volunteers were located all over the state, from Racine to Eau Claire, Marinette to Prairie du Chien. Sierra Club volunteers worked hard alongside our allies throughout the holidays, standing on street corners, knocking on doors, and explaining the issues to their friends and family. Some of our members collected just a few signatures, while others collected hundreds.

“Sierra Club members collected signatures because Governor Walker's attacks on the environments were just as extreme and egregious as his attacks on workers' rights, education, and healthcare. Our members know that the decisions elected officials make directly affect the water, air, and quality of life in Wisconsin. This includes Governor Walker's attacks on transit, wetlands, energy efficiency, and even recycling,” said Elizabeth Ward, Conservation Programs Coordinator for the Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter.

Governor Walker's attacks on the environment began before he was even sworn in to office when he rejected the high-speed rail money, and the 10,000 jobs and reduced air pollution that went with it. In the biennial budget that was passed in May, transit was cut by 10%, the Focus on Energy increases for energy efficiency that were passed in 2010 were wiped out, and recycling funding was cut by 40%. Currently, Wisconsin faces a proposed mining deregulation bill (AB 426) written by a single mining company seeking to develop the largest mine our state has ever seen on the sensitive shores of Lake Superior, a bill dubbed Polluters Over People (AB 421) that will cut public input out of the DNR's decision-making process, and most recently the Wetlands Deregulation Bill (AB 463 / SB 368), that fast-tracks permitting and removes critical protections for high-quality wetlands statewide.

“We answered our members' calls to get involved in the recall because we knew if we just sat back and watched, Wisconsin could become very different than we know it. Our clean air, clean water, and special, unique places are threatened. Sierra Club members will continue to fight for and hold accountable elected officials that stand up for Wisconsin's values,” said Dave Blouin, Political Chair for the Sierra Club—John Muir Chapter.

Founded in 1892 by John Muir, the Sierra Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization. The Sierra Club's mission is to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out those objectives. The Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter is made up of 15,000 members and supporters working to promote clean energy and protect water resources in Wisconsin.

###