



NH SENATE PRESS RELEASE

August 6, 2019

Contact Name: Sara Persechino

Phone: (603) 271-3479

Email: Sara.Persechino@leg.state.nh.us

Senator Watters Awarded Environmental Achievement Award by the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators

NEW HAMPSHIRE—On August 3, 2019, the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators (NCEL) presented New Hampshire State Senator David Watters with the Leon G. Billings Environmental Achievement Award. The award was announced at NCEL's sixth annual National Forum, which took place August 2-4 in Nashville, Tennessee. The forum was attended by 152 legislators from 39 states.

"As a legislator, I have made it a top priority to advance legislation to protect our environment and our public health in New Hampshire. It is my distinct honor to have that bipartisan work recognized by NCEL," said Senator David Watters (D-Dover).

Each year, NCEL recognizes state lawmakers for their effective leadership on environmental issues. The Environmental Achievement Award goes to a member of the Caucus for their outstanding accomplishments on environmental issues. Criteria includes bipartisan support for awardee's legislation and impact of policies that they passed.

Senator Watters was selected for the award by the NCEL Board of Directors, which is comprised of a majority of sitting state legislators. Senator Watters has been an active NCEL participant and has presented at several NCEL convenings. He has led efforts in his state to establish a Coastal Hazards and Risk Commission, implement a model Wildlife Corridors program, increase renewable energy through net metering and carbon pricing, to name just a few of his many environmental accomplishments.

NCEL Executive Director Jeff Mauk highlighted the role that Senator Watters has played as a mentor and as a leader for state legislators.

"As a longtime and active participant of NCEL, Senator Watters has been an incredible mentor for fellow legislators across the country," said Mauk. "Not only is he a highly effective

legislator, but he also is a fierce advocate on environmental issues who is always eager to pursue new policies and share lessons learned with colleagues across the country.”

The NCEL Board of Directors named the Environmental Achievement Award as a memorial to the organization’s founder, former Maryland Delegate Leon G. Billings, who first organized NCEL in 1996. Billings is also widely known as the U.S. Senate staffer responsible for writing the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act in the 1970s.

Created by and for state legislators, the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that organizes over 1,000 environmentally-committed state legislators from all 50 states and both parties. NCEL provides venues and opportunities for lawmakers to share ideas and collaborate on environmental issues.

###