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Oil-Backed Independent Expenditure Campaign Misleads Public About Senate District 29 Candidate's Environmental Record

SACRAMENTO – An independent expenditure campaign funded by polluting oil and gas industry interests has mailed campaign literature to voters in Senate District 29 designed to mislead voters about an oil-backed candidate's record.

The mailer, produced by the Coalition to Restore California's Middle Class, Including Energy Companies, based in the upscale Marin County town of San Rafael, claims that "The Sierra Club ranks Ling Ling Chang as a top Republican for a healthy environment...."

Chang, a California Assembly member with a shameful environmental voting record, is running against Josh Newman for the open Senate seat in Senate District 29, which includes the cities of Anaheim, Brea, Chino Hills, Diamond Bar, Fullerton, and West Covina, among others.

Josh Newman has received Sierra Club's endorsement for the seat. Newman is a veteran and executive director of an organization that serves veterans. He has a strong commitment to environmental quality, recognizes the value of transitioning California way from dependence on dirty fuels, and is proud of California's historic leadership on clean air and climate issues.

Statement from Sierra Club California Director Kathryn Phillips about the deceptive mailer:

"The mailer would be laughable if it wasn't for the fact that it could lead many well-intentioned voters to back a candidate who has one of the worst legislative records on the environment.

"In our recently released scorecard of legislators' performance on key environmental issues, Chang received a zero. She voted against clean air, against reducing climate pollution, and against improving the water system, among other things.

"Josh Newman is the only candidate in Senate District 29 who has and deserves praise for his environmental stances. Sierra Club is proud to endorse him to represent Senate District 29."

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Sierra Club California is the legislative and regulatory advocacy arm of the 13 Sierra Club chapters in California, representing more than 380,000 members and supporters statewide.