



For Immediate Release: March 5, 2013

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Sierra Club California Statement on Sen. Jerry Hill's Appointment to Chair Senate Environmental Quality Committee

SACRAMENTO—Today Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg appointed Senator Jerry Hill to fill the seat of Chair of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee. That seat was vacated when Senator Michael Rubio resigned to take a job with Chevron Oil in government affairs.

Sierra Club California Director Kathryn Phillips released the following statement in response to Senator Hill's appointment:

“We commend Senator Steinberg for appointing Senator Hill to chair the Senate Environmental Quality Committee. This is one of the most important committees in the legislature and deserves to be led by someone who has a strong environmental record, as does Senator Hill.

“Senate EQ will be the first stop for any legislation addressing environmental review. We know that some legislators plan to bring to that committee proposed bills to undo important parts of the California Environmental Quality Act. That act has helped stop special interests—like the oil companies that the previous chair now represents—from running roughshod over the environment.

“We look to Senator Hill to protect CEQA in his new role and resist allowing bad bills that would undermine it out of the committee, no matter who authors or sponsors them.”

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Sierra Club California is the legislative and regulatory advocacy arm of the Sierra Club's 13 chapters and more than 150,000 members in California.