



## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

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### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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### **SIERRA CLUB ENDORSES CARTER FOR CONGRESS**

**NEW ORLEANS** – The New Orleans Group of the Delta (Louisiana) Chapter of the Sierra Club has voted to endorse Karen Carter in her bid to win election as the congressional representative from Louisiana’s second district.

“Karen Carter has a solid track record on environmental issues that dates from her service as a State Representative,” says Jeffrey Thomas, political chair of the Delta Chapter. “We’re confident the environmental community will have a partner in Karen Carter who will provide us with leadership on the critical environmental issues our area faces as we recover.”

The Sierra Club sent questionnaires to both Carter and William Jefferson. Carter responded with detailed answers to questions; Jefferson did not respond.

In response to a question, Carter stated that the single greatest environmental problem facing the district is the degradation of southern Louisiana’s protective wetlands. “In Congress, I will fight for federal dollars to help my state provide comprehensive wetland restoration. A piecemeal approach to this catastrophe will not get the job done. Furthermore, I will promote responsible conservation and easement programs that allow our wetlands to exist naturally.”

As a state representative, Carter sponsored the Keep Louisiana Beautiful Act which earmarked specific tax revenues levied on driver's license renewal to help fight litter. She also authored HB1321 which creates an environmental health surveillance system and provides for the development of a database to evaluate environmental factors, including physical, biological and social factors. Both bills passed into law.

“Undistracted by controversy, we can be sure that Karen will help lead in securing precious federal dollars and environmental safeguards as we rebuild New Orleans,” says Thomas. “We’re excited to help her secure representation of Louisiana’s second district.”

Carter also earned the endorsement of the Sierra Club because she supports complete closure of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, supports efforts to impose independent peer-review of U.S. Corps of Engineers, and she supports current law that requires that critical habitat be designated for endangered species. Carter also supports bipartisan legislation that would increase automobile fuel efficiency. “This legislation would save consumers money, reduce dependency on foreign oil and make sure that cars are more efficient but do not lose any safety features.”

The Sierra Club is an environmental organization with more than 750,000 members nationwide. The New Orleans Group has a membership of approximately 1,800 residents in Orleans, Jefferson and St. Tammany parishes. Local members have been active in rebuilding their communities after Katrina, including serving on the Mayor's Bring New Orleans Back subcommittees, organizing neighborhood clean-ups, and sponsoring the New Orleans BuildSmart Expo. The group supports the fight against new construction debris landfills in New Orleans East. In announcing their support of Carter,

the group intends to mobilize their members to vote and volunteer for Carter in the upcoming election.

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The Sierra Club's 750,000 members work together to protect communities and the planet. The Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization. The Delta (Louisiana) chapter of the Sierra Club has more than 3,500 members and has been active in local conservation projects for more than 30 years. For more information, contact the organization's website: [www.louisiana.sierraclub.org](http://www.louisiana.sierraclub.org).