

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

United States Senate

October 19, 2013

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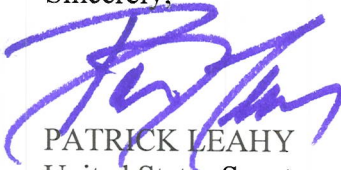
Dear Tom and Friends:

Today, we come together at the Ira Allen Chapel to remember and honor our good friend, Hub Vogelmann. Hub was a great man, and a dear friend. He will be remembered by his family and friends, colleagues, and students as a kind and generous man who acted locally and changed the world. Marcelle and I will miss Hub.

During the decades that I knew him, I would call on Hub frequently for scientific advice on national environmental issues and Vermont conservation projects. I looked to him to help place the conservation issues of our time at the top of the national agenda. Hub's research on acid rain was at center stage when, during a Senate hearing, I pushed Lee Thomas, President Reagan's EPA Administrator, on the issue of acid rain. It was an uphill push; remember that President Reagan famously stated that more air pollution comes from trees than from cars, and Lee was a "Doubting Thomas." I challenged Administrator Thomas, on the record, to come to Vermont and climb Camel's Hump with Hub and me to see the damage first hand, and I was surprised when he accepted. On the day of the climb, Senator Stafford and then Congressman Jeffords joined the expedition, as well as many Vermont officials and environmental advocates. The media came, too, with their cumbersome camera equipment. The expedition was so large in number that the Green Mountain Club had to station guides along the way to provide water and to keep people on the trail. We snaked slowly up the 4,000 foot mountain with Hub in the lead. It was well worth the effort when Hub gave Administrator Thomas a first-hand look at acres of acid scorched dead spruce covering the flanks of our most iconic peak. With the evidence staring him in the face, it was impossible for Administrator Thomas to question the impact of acid rain. That revelation helped to make possible work that led to the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, the most important national pollution control law adopted in the past two decades.

This was one moment of many in Hub's career and life, where he made an impact on an individual, and on the nation. He led the way for generations of scientists and conservationists to make an impact with their own work, and this is his legacy. Today we celebrate a great man, and we will miss him.

Sincerely,



PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator
President pro tempore