

Letters to the Editor
November 9, 2006
The Press Democrat

People power

EDITOR: If the general election of 2006 has been described as a tsunami, Richard Pombo's defeat is an earthquake. Republican Congressman Pombo has been described as the "enemy of the Earth," "worst of the worst" and "America's No. 1 wildlife villain." Mendocino Coast Democrats helped to defeat Pombo, the powerful chairman of the House Resources Committee, in California's 11th Congressional District. Democrat Jerry McNerney is an energy expert. His David-against-Goliath effort was a stunning victory for environmentalists and grass-roots activists.

This was definitely a win for people power. Not originally supported by the Democratic political establishment, little-known McNerney ran twice. He was a 2004 write-in candidate, inspired by his son who enlisted in the military after 9/11. Electing McNerney became a major grass-roots movement for a new direction, in this past election of 2006.

A wind energy businessman, Jerry McNerney was strongly supported by the Mendocino Coast Democratic Club and (south coast) Democrats United for Progress. Members contributed money and made phone calls to get out the vote for McNerney.

RACHEL BINAH

Little River