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**WILCO HOSTS HEADCOUNT AND PATAGONIA INC.'S
"VOTE THE ENVIRONMENT" CAMPAIGN AT U.S. TOUR STOPS**

- **Non-partisan voter registration drive paired with environmental campaign turns Wilco concerts into more than a musical experience**

NEW YORK, NY – With the Presidential election approaching fast, the Chicago-based rock band Wilco has turned their concerts into a call for democratic participation by hosting the non-partisan voter registration organization [HeadCount](#) and Patagonia Inc.'s "[Vote the Environment](#)" campaign at nearly every U.S. tour stop.

On Wilco's upcoming tour, which begins in Chicago on Sept. 15th and ends in Los Angeles on Sept. 30th, HeadCount and Patagonia will set up side-by-side booths at each concert. Anyone in attendance at these concerts will have the chance to register to vote. Anyone will also be able to remind their elected officials that environmental issues help determine *how they vote*.

In support of these efforts, Wilco also donated an exclusive version of their song "Whole Love" – the title track from their Grammy-nominated album *The Whole Love* – with all proceeds from [download](#) of this song benefitting HeadCount and its nationwide voter registration campaign. (Track can be downloaded at: <http://bit.ly/LH70bE>). Patagonia also produced a special edition [Wilco/Vote the Environment t-shirt](#), with a portion of proceeds benefitting HeadCount (T-shirts can be ordered at: <http://bit.ly/KE0HdV>).

"Given the current state of American politics," notes Jeff Tweedy, Wilco's lead singer, "it's easy to see why people become disillusioned and don't participate. But my hope, and my reason for this partnership, is to remind people that they do have a voice, and voting is an effective and undeniable way to be heard. And nature, while powerful, needs our voices and votes to protect and preserve it."

At the HeadCount booth, concert-goers can register to vote for the first time or update their existing registration. They can also get information on voter ID laws in their particular state, sign a "Pledge to Vote," or volunteer to register voters at other area concerts.

Next door, Patagonia hosts a photo booth where fans can hold up a personalized sign noting why they vote the environment. They can also get information provided by League of Conservation Voters regarding their elected officials' voting records.

This all coincides with a Twitter campaign around the hashtag #becauseilove. Fans are encouraged to Tweet messages and images that complete the sentence "I vote the environment because I love ..." in order to personalize the environmental issues at stake in this election. The #becauseilove Tweets are then displayed in real-time on video screens at Wilco shows, in Patagonia retail stores across the country and online at [Patagonia.com](#).

"People protect what they love," says Patagonia's founder and owner Yvon Chouinard, "It's time to hold our candidates accountable to environmental issues: if you care about clean air and water, how do

the candidates on the national, state and local levels measure up on those topics? Get informed before casting your vote.”

Wilco U.S. Tour Dates:

September 15 th	Chicago, IL	Hideout Block Party
September 16 th	Columbia, MO	Live on Ninth Street
September 19 th	Tucson, AZ	Tucson Convention Center Music Hall
September 21 st	Berkeley, CA	Greek Theater
September 23 rd	Reno, NV	Grand Sierra Theater
September 25 th	Jacksonville, OR	Britt Pavilion
September 26 th	Redding, CA	Cascade Theater
September 28 th	Palm Desert, CA	McCallum Theater for the Performing Arts
September 30 th	Los Angeles, CA	Hollywood Bowl

About HeadCount:

HeadCount is a non-partisan grassroots organization that uses the power of music to register voters and raise social consciousness. Since 2004, HeadCount has staged voter registration drives at over 2,000 concerts and signed up over 200,000 voters. Headcount reaches young music fans where they already are – at concerts and online – to inform and empower.

About Patagonia:

Patagonia, Inc., based in Ventura, California, is a leading designer of core outdoor, surf and sport-related apparel, equipment, footwear and accessories. With sales last year of \$540M, the company is noted internationally for its commitment to authentic product quality and environmental activism. Incorporating environmental responsibility into product development, the company has, since 1996, used only organically grown cotton in its clothing line. Committed to making its products landfill-free, the company’s entire product line is recyclable through its Common Threads Initiative. Patagonia was featured as *The Coolest Company on the Planet* on Fortune Magazine’s April 2007 cover.

For more information about Wilco please visit wilcworld.net or facebook.com/wilcohq

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