



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

December 12, 2011

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Oppose H.R. 3630 – Tax Bill with Harmful and Controversial Anti-Environmental Riders

Dear Representative:

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) works to turn environmental values into national priorities. Each year, LCV publishes the *National Environmental Scorecard*, which details the voting records of members of Congress on environmental legislation. The *Scorecard* is distributed to LCV members, concerned voters nationwide, and the media.

LCV urges you to vote NO on H.R. 3630, a tax bill containing unrelated, harmful, and controversial provisions that threaten public health and the environment and perpetuate our dependence on dirty sources of energy. Congress should stick to the business at hand, rather than loading up this tax legislation with provisions expediting the dangerous Keystone XL tar sands pipeline and tossing out life-saving clean air standards that will help reduce toxic air pollution like mercury.

The bill's unrelated Keystone XL provision would short-circuit the environmental review process for the proposed pipeline that would traverse six states in order to carry tar sands – the dirtiest form of oil on the planet – from Canada to an international shipping port in Texas, where Big Oil plans to export this harmful product. This pipeline would threaten the environment with significantly more global warming pollution than conventional crude oil and jeopardize surrounding communities, ecosystems, and watersheds. The foreign company lobbying to build the pipeline has wildly inflated the estimated job-creation numbers; in fact, the State Department's Final Environmental Impact Statement states that this pipeline would result in just twenty permanent employees.

The legislation's unrelated provision that increases toxic air pollution from industrial boilers and incinerators would not create jobs, but it would result in tens of thousands of premature deaths, thousands of heart attacks, and over a hundred thousand asthma attacks. This provision even blocks the clean-up of mercury emissions, a potent neurotoxin known to be especially dangerous to children and pregnant women. With mercury-related fish consumption advisories in every state and at least one in 12 women with dangerously-high mercury levels in their bodies, the dangers caused by mercury are clear.

We urge you to REJECT H.R. 3630 because of the unrelated, harmful, and controversial anti-environmental riders attached to it. These sorts of provisions have absolutely no place in tax legislation. We will strongly consider including votes on this bill – as well as votes on the omnibus spending bill if it contains these or other harmful riders – in the 2011 Scorecard. If you need more information, please call Tiernan Sittenfeld, Sara Chieffo or Alex Taurel in my office at (202) 785-8683.

Sincerely,

Gene Karpinski
President