



## LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

January 26, 2015

**Re: OPPOSE S. 1 & LCV's Position on Vitter-Cassidy #80, Murkowski #98, Flake #103, Cruz #15, Moran #73, Daines #132 & Cardin #75**

Dear Senator,

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 S. 1, legislation that would automatically approve the dirty and dangerous Keystone XL tar sands pipeline.** This disastrous pipeline clearly fails the President's climate test, threatens our communities and waterways, and is simply unacceptable. No amendments can change that, and we urge you to vote NO on final passage regardless of the outcome of amendments.

**We also urge you to OPPOSE these damaging amendments:**

- **Vitter-Cassidy #80** (as modified): This amendment would vastly expand risky drilling off all our nation's shores while introducing an irresponsible revenue-sharing scheme. Expanding offshore oil and gas drilling threatens coastal economies, increases our dependence on fossil fuels, and worsens climate change.
- **Murkowski #98**: This amendment would seriously undermine our country's commitment to fund efforts to assist the poorest nations in the world address climate change's devastating impacts and reduce their pollution. This amendment sets up a false choice between helping communities at home and abroad. We have a responsibility to do both. If Senators are serious about helping communities impacted by climate change, they should fund both the Green Climate Fund and a U.S.-focused Climate Resilience Fund, as President Obama has proposed.
- **Flake #103**: Buildings account for 40 percent of our nation's energy use and the federal government has a number of critical programs dedicated to reducing energy and water use. This amendment falsely assumes redundancies across these important programs and would undermine efforts to create jobs, save consumers and businesses money, and improve our health.
- **Cruz #15**: This amendment would undermine the Department of Energy's (DOE) role in approving applications to export liquefied natural gas (LNG). It would greatly expand the preference for exports to 20 Free Trade Agreement countries and rubberstamp exports to all 159 World Trade Organization member countries. Instead of allowing DOE to base decisions to export LNG on the wide range of potential impacts to American consumers, this measure would interfere with the department's approval process, ignoring potentially negative impacts on our economy, our health, and our environment.



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- **Moran #73:** This egregious amendment would undo the listing decision of the lesser prairie-chicken as threatened under the Endangered Species Act and remove the protections deemed necessary by scientists and experts at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This amendment amounts to Congressional meddling in science-based decision making and undermines legitimate work to protect the bird and its habitat across the West.
- **Daines #132:** This anti-parks amendment would completely undermine a widely celebrated and bipartisan law, the Antiquities Act, which has been used to protect America's most treasured places from the Grand Canyon to the Statue of Liberty. This amendment is out of step with the nine out of ten Americans who support "permanently protecting some public lands such as national monuments, wildlife refuges, or wilderness areas for our children and grandchildren."

While no amendment could make the underlying legislation worth supporting, **we encourage you to SUPPORT the following amendments:**

- **Cardin # 75:** Developing tar sands oil is a bad deal. It is environmentally destructive, carbon-intensive and the dirtiest oil on the planet. Tar sands oil simply shouldn't be developed. However, this amendment would take an important step toward protecting communities whose access to clean water is threatened by tar sands oil spills from this proposed pipeline.

Regardless of the outcome of amendments, LCV urges you to vote NO on final passage of S. 1, legislation approving the dirty and dangerous Keystone XL pipeline. We will strongly consider including votes on this bill in the 2015 *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