



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

January 28, 2015

Re: OPPOSE S.1 & LCV's Position on Cardin #75, Peters #70, Sanders #23, Cruz #15, Merkley #125, Moran #73, Daines #132, Coons #115, Carper #120, Murkowski #166, Heitkamp #133, Gillibrand #48, Daines #246, and Burr #92

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:

- **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.
- **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."
- **Murkowski #166:** This anti-conservation amendment is a deliberate assault on America's lands and waters that have already been deemed worthy of protection. This amendment would strip protections from nearly 21 million acres of America's most pristine places and is vastly out of step with the American people, who overwhelmingly support more



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protections of America's treasured places.

- **Daines #246:** This amendment feigns support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and is non-substantive in nature. This amendment would allow supporters to pay lip service to LWCF without truly supporting full funding and reauthorization of this popular and successful program.

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.
- **Peters #70:** A tar sands spill in Michigan in 2010 has so far required four years and \$1.2 billion in ongoing cleanup costs. To prevent future accidents, this amendment would prevent the construction of the pipeline from commencing until the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration has the resources to safely operate pipelines under the Great Lakes and submits a study on pipeline safety in those waters.
- **Sanders #23:** This amendment would provide funding to put solar panels on ten million roofs, creating millions of clean energy jobs, substantially reducing carbon pollution, and more than quadrupling the solar generating capacity of the United States by 2025.
- **Merkley #125:** This amendment closes tax loopholes for major oil companies and invests in repairing and modernizing our transportation and water infrastructure. This amendment will create jobs, reduce pollution, and ends taxpayer giveaways to some of the biggest polluters in the world.
- **Coons #115:** Climate change is already impacting communities across the nation. This amendment highlights the financial impact of climate change on the nation's infrastructure and underscores the important role the federal government should play in helping communities prepare to reduce these impacts in the future.
- **Carper #120:** This amendment extends the investment tax credits for hydrogen fuel cell vehicles (30B) and alternative fuel infrastructure (30C) for five years, both of which expired at the end of 2014. These incentives will help reduce carbon pollution and our dependence on fossil fuels.
- **Heitkamp #133:** This amendment extends the expired Production Tax Credit for five years. This critical incentive expired at the end of 2014 and is essential to the continued expansion of renewable energy sources, like wind and would create jobs, reduce pollution, and



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increase our energy independence.

- **Gillibrand #48:** This amendment would close the “Halliburton Loophole,” a provision in the 2005 Energy Policy Act that exempts hydraulic fracturing from the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This exemption puts our drinking water at risk, and it is essential that the oil and gas industry be required to abide by all of our major environmental laws to ensure protection of our health, communities, and environment.
- **Burr #92:** This amendment would permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which is one of America's greatest conservation tools. Since its creation in 1965, the LWCF has helped provide solutions to America's vast and diverse needs for open space, clean water, recreation, and jobs. The authorization for LWCF is set to expire on September 30, 2015 after fifty years of overwhelming success.

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