



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

January 22, 2015

Re: OPPOSE S. 1 & LCV's Position on Blunt #78, Fischer #18, Vitter-Cassidy #80, Lee #71, Sanders #24, Wyden #27

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:

- **Blunt #78:** This amendment would be a significant setback in the global fight against climate change and more broadly is counter to our country's diplomatic interests. The joint U.S.-China announcement in November shows that both countries are serious about taking action on climate change and builds momentum toward a global solution to the climate crisis. This amendment would undermine the U.S.'s ability to ensure other countries take action.
- **Fischer #18 (as modified):** This anti-conservation amendment is meant to slow new protections for public lands, when the American people overwhelmingly support protecting our natural heritage for our children and grandchildren. The amendment is a solution in search of a problem.
- **Vitter-Cassidy #80 (as modified):** This damaging 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.
- **Lee amendment #71:** This amendment would elevate oil and gas development over the other multiple uses on our federal lands. It is a clear giveaway to the fossil fuel industry, at the expense of millions of Americans who rely on our public lands for other uses, such as hunting, fishing, protection of water supplies, and many others.

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



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- **Sanders #24:** This amendment expresses the Sense of Congress that climate change is real, man-made pollution is a significant contributor to climate change, and we need to transition away from our dependence on fossil fuels.
- **Wyden # 27:** 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, we should close the current loophole in the tax system that lets tar sands companies off the hook for cleaning up their spills.

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