



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

March 24, 2014

United States House
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Oppose H.R 2824—Threatens Our Health and Our Waterways with Dumping of Toxic Mining Waste

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. 2824, a destructive bill that would nullify sensible safeguards that prevent the dumping of dangerous mining waste into our waterways.

Stream buffers zones are essential for protecting waterways from toxic coal mining waste, and rules requiring 100-foot buffer zones were issued under President Reagan. H.R. 2824 eliminates this critical protection and reinstates a Bush era rule, which was struck down in federal court this past February due to its clear violation of the Endangered Species Act. The 2008 rule exempted the most destructive mining practices from the buffer requirement, leaving streams and waterways vulnerable to sludge and other mining debris.

H.R. 2824 also forces states to adopt the flawed 2008 rule and prohibits them from taking additional steps to protect their citizens and communities. This legislation would put waterways throughout the U.S. at risk for contamination, especially the Appalachian region. More than one thousand miles of streams have been damaged by mining waste and this bill would only further expose the Appalachian region to destructive mining practices that threaten water supplies.

We urge you to REJECT this misguided legislation and stand up for the commonsense Reagan rule. We will strongly consider including votes on these bills in the 2014 *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