



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

June 24, 2014

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Oppose H.R. 3301

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.3301, a dangerous bill that would gut the review process for approving cross-border pipeline applications. The bill would effectively exempt the projects from the National Environmental Policy Act, narrowing the focus of the environmental review to the cross border segment of the project. This would significantly reduce federal review and public input regarding the project's impacts, including oil spills and consequences for landowners, public safety, drinking water, climate change and wildlife. The bill would then require the automatic approval of any cross-border oil pipeline within 120 days of the completion of review under the National Energy Policy Act unless the Secretary of State intervenes to deem the pipeline "not in the public interest."

H.R.3301 would exempt any modifications to existing pipelines from the permitting process. This means more than just repairs – it includes flow reversals, volume expansion no matter how significant, and changes in the fuel mixture carried. Given the abysmal safety record of many pipeline operators, from a high rate of welds that must be redone to spills that have flooded communities and waterways, the American people deserve a process with adequate review and safeguards.

We urge you to vote NO on H.R.3301, the North American Energy Infrastructure Act, yet another attempt to disregard due process, strip government agencies of regulatory oversight, and endanger public health and the environment in order to rush a decision on any cross-border pipeline application. We will strongly consider including votes on this bill in the 2014 *Scorecard*. If you need more information, please call Tiernan Sittenfeld or Zach Drennen in my office at (202) 785-8683.

Sincerely,

Gene Karpinski
President