



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

July 28, 2014

United States House
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Oppose H.R. 4315 – An attack on the Endangered Species Act

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. 4315, the so-called “21st Century Endangered Species Transparency Act.” This is a conglomeration of bills that undermine the Endangered Species Act and would waste precious taxpayer resources, jeopardize the use of legitimate science, and weaken the rights of all Americans. This is part of a continued attack on America’s landmark environmental laws and would deal a crippling blow to wildlife protection.

This bill is another assault on one of our nation’s most effective and important environmental laws – the Endangered Species Act. This 1973 law passed the Senate by voice vote, had only 4 no votes in the House, is supported by 84% of the American public, and since going into effect has helped protect numerous iconic species from going extinct, including the bald eagle.

This bill would create the onerous task of developing and maintaining expensive online databases that would increase bureaucracy and undermine legitimate efforts to ensure a balanced approach to conservation. Additionally, this bill seeks to take the scientists out of science by allowing any data submitted to agencies from states, tribes or counties to be dubbed the best available science – even if there wasn’t a single scientist involved in the process. By limiting the ability of American citizens to obtain counsel and challenge illegal government activities, this bill undermines public involvement from across the political spectrum.

We urge you to REJECT H.R. 4315, an attack on the Endangered Species Act. We will strongly consider including votes on this bill in the 2014 *Scorecard*. If you need more information, please call Andy French or Alex Taurel in my office at (202) 785-8683.

Sincerely,

Gene Karpinski
President