



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

June 24, 2014

United States House
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Oppose H.R. 4899, which hands over America's natural resources to Big Oil

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. 4899, the so-called "Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014." This bill prioritizes oil industry profits at the expense of the public's interest in participating in government decision-making on energy projects in our backyards, sustaining robust local economies based on healthy public lands and coastal areas, and maintaining access to enjoy our public lands and preserving them for our children and grandchildren.

At a time when domestic oil and gas production is at historic levels, we should be focusing efforts on diversifying our energy portfolio through renewable energy production and not catering to Big Oil to weaken standards and decrease enforcement. This legislation would force the federal government to prioritize drilling on our public lands over other activities in these beautiful and majestic places, such as hunting, fishing, and hiking. H.R. 4899 would invite a massive "oil grab" off our nation's shores while relaxing the regulatory requirements and ability for states, local governments, and the public to participate in the review process, risking another oil spill in our oceans. In addition, this bill would undermine critical parts of the National Environmental Protection Act and give oil and gas a pass on necessary environmental reviews.

While this bill recognizes the need to better coordinate with the Department of Defense, it simultaneously undermines the National Ocean Policy by eliminating the ability of Interior's ocean bureaus to further coordinate with coastal communities to provide a more comprehensive and balanced approach to resource management. By nullifying existing management structures, this bill could open up highly sensitive areas in Alaska for drilling.

We urge you to REJECT H.R. 4899. We will strongly consider including votes on this bill in the 2014 Scorecard. If you need more information, please call Tiernan Sittenfeld, Sara Chieffo, Alex Taurel, or Andy French in my office at (202) 785-8683.

Sincerely,

Gene Karpinski
President