



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

June 18, 2012

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Oppose H.R. 2578 - an over-reaching assault on America's lands and wildlife

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. 2578, the so-called Conservation and Economic Growth Act, an over-reaching assault on America's lands and wildlife that blocks or rolls back conservation laws on federal lands, guts environmental review, and privatizes public lands. While the package includes a number of non-controversial provisions, the overall bill must be rejected due to the inclusion of numerous extraordinarily harmful titles.

Among the highly controversial provisions is Rep. Rob Bishop's H.R. 1505 (Title XIV), an over-reaching bill which takes the extraordinary step of carving out a 100-mile zone along the Mexico and Canada borders where the American people must surrender their right to hunt, fish, and recreate on their land so that federal agents can have unprecedented new policing authority. While border security will not be advanced by this legislation—as evidenced by the Department of Homeland Security's opposition to the bill—Americans' right to enjoy their natural heritage will be severely threatened.

There are several other harmful provisions in this package. Title III is an earmark that gives a private corporation access to clearcut prime public lands in the Tongass National Forest, home to some of the largest remaining areas of old-growth in the U.S. Title VII allows the lethal removal of sea lions from the Columbia River without public involvement and with limited scientific review. Title X cuts sensible limits on vehicle access on Cape Hatteras designed to protect threatened wildlife. And Title XI cuts environmental protections for livestock grazing.

We urge you to support all pro-environment amendments, such as the proposed Gijalva amendment to strike Title XIV and the proposed DeFazio amendment on Title III, though their passage will not alter our opposition to the bill.

We urge you to REJECT H.R. 2578, a dreadful package of attacks on conservation protections for public lands and wildlife. We will strongly consider including votes on this bill in the 2012 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