



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

July 24, 2013

United States House
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Oppose H.R. 1582, a Sweeping Assault on Public Health Protections

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. 1582, which should more accurately be called the Blocking Public Health Protections Act. This bill masquerades as helping consumers when in fact it is a blatant attempt to block safeguards that protect public health and the environment.

This legislation undermines EPA's authority under the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and Safe Drinking Water Act to promulgate rules that safeguard human health and the environment. Sponsors of this legislation openly acknowledge that the legislation is intended to attack health safeguards like the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards. That particular safeguard alone will prevent up to 11,000 premature deaths, 4,700 heart attacks and 130,000 asthma attacks every year once implemented. The bill would strip EPA of the authority to finalize vital protections like this one and instead hand over that authority to the Secretary of Energy, who leads a department with a completely different mission from the EPA's, which is to protect human health and the environment.

In a time of already diminished budgets, H.R. 1582 wastes resources on a costly regulatory review process that duplicates the rigorous evaluations already undertaken by EPA and other federal agencies. The Department of Energy is not required to disclose its methodology, eliminating transparency that is the bedrock of current rulemaking and preventing accountability. Rule-making delays and potential vetoes under this bill will have real-life consequences for public health and the environment.

We urge you to REJECT H.R. 1582, support all pro-environment amendments and oppose all anti-environment amendments, in particular Representative Culberson and Murphy's anti-science amendments that turn a blind eye to the growing social costs of carbon pollution—though the outcome of these votes will not alter our opposition to the underlying bill. We will strongly consider including votes on this legislation in the 2013 *Scorecard*. If you need more information, please call Tiernan Sittenfeld or Alex Taurel in my office at (202) 785-8683.

Sincerely,

Gene Karpinski
President