



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

February 15, 2012

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Vote NO on the Most Anti-Environmental Transportation Bills Ever (H.R. 3408, H.R. 7)

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 the package of transportation bills being considered by the House. These extreme bills increase our dangerous dependence on oil, threaten our nation's special places and coasts, end all dedicated funding for transit, biking, and walking, and gut our preeminent environmental review law.

H.R. 3408 (titles XIV and XVII of the Rules Committee Print 112-14) increases our oil dependence by mandating drilling in the pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, along the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts, in the eastern Gulf of Mexico, and in the Rocky Mountain West. At the same time, it weakens the already inadequate rules governing off-shore drilling. This bill mandates approval of the harmful Keystone XL tar sands pipeline despite the fact it has already been denied by the President, lacks a route, and would increase energy prices in much of the Midwest.

H.R. 7 (titles I through XIII and XV of the Rules Committee Print 112-14) fails to invest in a transportation system for the 21st century. It eliminates dedicated funding for transit, biking and walking, and cleaning up our air through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program. This bill also slashes funding for Amtrak and cuts the Safe Routes to School program. Furthermore, this bill guts the National Environmental Policy Act by altogether exempting highway projects from reviews, cutting public input, grossly limiting judicial review, and automatically approving projects if a deadline is missed.

Transportation bills have a tradition of bipartisanship, but unfortunately, this legislation abandons that tradition. In fact, U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood recently called this legislation “the most partisan ever” and “the worst transportation bill” he has seen in his 35 years of public service.

We urge you to REJECT this package of bills and all anti-environmental amendments that make this harmful legislation even worse. We encourage you to support all pro-environment amendments; however, we still oppose these underlying bills regardless of the outcome of these amendments. We will strongly consider including votes on these bills, including the Rule and amendments 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