



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

September 19, 2012

United States House
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Oppose H.R. 3409 – Yet Another Assault on Americans' Health

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. 3409, the so-called Stop the War on Coal Act of 2012, an all-too-predictable final assault on the health of the American people by the most anti-environment House of Representatives in history. This legislation is a dangerous distraction from the country's real challenges because allowing more pollution won't create jobs, but it will harm Americans' health.

This legislation guts bedrock protections in the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, all of which Americans have relied on for decades to protect them from uncontrolled pollution. The bill:

- Prevents the Secretary of the Interior from issuing a rule protecting streams from destruction by mountaintop removal mining, which has been linked to severe health impacts in nearby communities, including elevated incidences of birth defects.
- Gives big polluters a free pass to spew unlimited amounts of life-threatening carbon pollution and blocks the Environmental Protection Agency's fuel efficiency and greenhouse gas standards for cars that will save consumers money at the pump, reduce our dependence on oil, and create jobs.
- Weakens the Clean Air Act while blocking and stalling critical clean air protections, including those for smog, soot, and mercury pollution, which will mean thousands of premature deaths and hundreds of thousands of avoidable asthma attacks.
- Fails to protect communities from toxic, arsenic-laden coal ash leaching into water Americans count on and won't protect us from another catastrophic spill like the one that occurred at the Tennessee Valley Authority's Kingston coal ash dump in 2008.
- Guts the core of the Clean Water Act—the federal “floor” of water quality standards that states must meet—which would return the states to the “race to the bottom” that resulted in rivers so polluted they caught on fire.

We urge you to REJECT H.R. 3409, yet another assault on Americans' health by the most anti-environment House of Representatives in history. 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