



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

July 31, 2013

United States House
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Oppose the REINS Act (H.R. 367), a radical assault on public 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. 367, the REINS Act, a radical assault on our system of public protections that threatens vital health and environmental safeguards. LCV joins our partners in the Coalition for Sensible Safeguards—an alliance of consumer, public health, labor, good government, environmental, and scientific groups—in strongly opposing this extreme legislation.

The REINS Act would delay or shut down the implementation of vital public health and environmental safeguards, which would mean more premature deaths, illnesses, and other health impacts on the American people at the hands of polluters dumping toxins into our air and water. The bill requires both houses of Congress to affirmatively approve all significant new public protections before they take effect. All you have to do is look at the current Congress—which is on pace to be the least productive Congress in history, in terms of the number of bills that have passed and become law—to appreciate the potential impact of this legislation and recognize it for what it is: a tool for polluters to scuttle new health and environmental safeguards.

Furthermore, the REINS Act is redundant and unnecessary, given that Congress already has the first and last word on agency rulemaking. Federal agencies can only exercise authority that has been first delegated by Congress in authorizing legislation. Agencies that overstep that authority are subject to judicial review, and Congress already possesses the ability to overturn any major rule under the Congressional Review Act. This legislation is thus unnecessary and merely interferes with the scientists and technical experts at agencies from doing their jobs to faithfully implement the laws Congress has already passed.

We urge you to REJECT the REINS Act. We will strongly consider including votes on this bill 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