



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

July 25, 2012

United States House
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Oppose H.R. 4078 – Radical Safeguards Shutdown Bill

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. 4078, a radical package of bills that would halt all significant new public safeguards, including for the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat. This legislation does nothing to stimulate the economy, will lead to economic uncertainty, and further empowers special interests over the public interest. A broad coalition of consumer, small business, labor, environmental, faith, community, and public interest groups oppose this extreme bill.

The so-called “Red Tape Reduction and Small Business Job Creation Act” is comprised of seven bills: H.R. 4078, H.R. 4607, H.R. 3862, H.R. 373, H.R. 4377, H.R. 2308, and H.R. 1840. The centerpiece of this legislation intends to halt all significant regulations as long as unemployment remains above 6%, which CBO has estimated will last several years. This means even standards supported by industry, such as new fuel efficiency standards and food safety standards to prevent the next food-borne contamination crisis will be stopped.

Other damaging provisions in this sweeping legislation freeze all regulations once a new President is elected, even if these standards have been in the works for years. Other portions of the bill require numerous duplicative, unnecessary, and costly analyses and undermine the rights of individuals and communities to hold the federal government accountable. This legislation would also threaten the public’s ability to have a say in federal projects and severely undermines the National Environmental Policy Act, which simply requires federal agencies assess proposals’ environmental impacts, solicit the input of all affected stakeholders, and disclose their findings publicly before undertaking projects that may significantly affect the environment.

We urge you to REJECT H.R. 4078. This bill will shut down new public safeguards for our air and water, as well as for our workplaces, food supply, consumer products, financial system, and medical devices. 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