



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

July 11, 2016

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Oppose H.R. 5538, the Interior-Environment Appropriations Bill

Dear Member of Congress:

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.5538, the FY 17 Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, oppose all anti-environmental amendments, and support all pro-environmental amendments. This partisan spending bill is an assault on the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the wild places we hold dear.

This spending bill ought to be about dollars and cents, and yet it contains more than 30 anti-environmental policy riders. By blocking commonsense limits on carbon pollution from power plants, the bill denies the reality that we have a moral obligation to our children and grandchildren to act on climate change. This legislation would also prohibit the EPA from protecting the drinking water of one in three Americans and prevent new parks from being created in areas across the country. These are just a few of the many dangerous policy riders that lie within this bill and which have no place in spending legislation.

Besides containing poison-pill riders, H.R. 5538 significantly slashes funding for key environmental programs and agencies. The bill would cut appropriations to the Land and Water Conservation Fund by 30% of its current funding, which is already well below its \$900 million authorized level. This bill also cuts much-needed funding to the EPA and to list new species under the Endangered Species Act. All in all, this bill threatens our air, water, lands, and wildlife.

We urge you to REJECT the House Interior- Environment Appropriations Bill, oppose all anti-environmental amendments, and support all pro-environmental amendments. We will strongly consider including votes on this bill in the 2016 Scorecard. If you need more information, please call my office at (202) 785-8683 and ask to speak to a member of our government relations team.

Sincerely,

Gene Karpinski
President