



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

March 14, 2016

United States House
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Oppose H.R 3797, the SENSE Act —

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. 3797, the Satisfying Energy Needs and Saving the Environment (SENSE) Act, an assault on public health safeguards that would exempt power plants burning “coal refuse” or waste from complying with certain clean air protections required by current law.

The SENSE Act would weaken the Cross State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) by replacing the state emissions reductions rules with federal rules that allow waste coal plants to pollute in excess of current law, damaging public health in the surrounding area and far downwind of the power plants. This law would also weaken the EPA’s Mercury and Air Toxics (MATS) standards, successful safeguards already in place that are designed to reduce pollution associated with dangerous compounds like sulfur dioxide and hydrogen chloride, increasing the risk of asthma attacks and other serious health impacts including premature deaths.

Coal refuse represents a significant public health and environmental challenge, with negative consequences for nearby communities and our land, water, and wildlife. But attempting to address this problem by releasing harmful compounds into the air that we breathe is no solution.

We urge you to REJECT this harmful legislation. 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 with a member of our Government Relations team.

Sincerely,

Gene Karpinski
President