



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

May 25, 2016

United States House
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Oppose the House Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, and LCV's position on various amendments

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. 5055, the FY2017 House Energy and Water Appropriations bill, which cuts funding for clean energy and inappropriately contains anti-environmental policy riders that harm our efforts to protect clean water and our climate.

We have a moral obligation to future generations to do everything we can to address climate change. Yet instead of boosting investments in clean energy innovation that would reduce the carbon pollution causing climate change, the bill actually cuts that funding. The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy is slashed by \$248 million, solar energy investments are cut by \$44.6 million, and sustainable transportation technologies are reduced by \$102.5 million. These cuts take us backward on energy policy.

What's more, this legislation contains a slew of poison-pill policy riders that harm the environment. One rider would block the Clean Water Rule, which protects the drinking water of one in three Americans. Another would undermine the National Ocean Policy. Several others undercut the Endangered Species Act and undermine environmental protections for California's rivers and fisheries. Furthermore, language in the committee report would prohibit the Department of Energy from using the social cost of carbon until a new working group is convened with a direction to revise the cost downward in a biased fashion. These and other policy riders simply have no place in spending bills.

In addition, we urge you to support the following amendments:

- **McNerney**, which would strip provisions in the underlying bill that threaten protections for California's salmon, migratory birds, and other fish and wildlife along with the thousands of jobs that rely on the health of these species. These dangerous riders undermine the legal settlement governing the restoration of the San Joaquin River and would violate the biological opinions under the Endangered Species Act that protect salmon and other endangered fish in California's Bay-Delta estuary.
- **Polis #1**, which would increase funding for DOE's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy programs by \$9.75 million, transferring that funding from Fossil Energy Research



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and Development. This money will help research clean energy while reducing wasteful spending on the polluting fuels of the past.

- **Polis #2**, which would reduce funding for DOE's Fossil Energy Research and Development programs by \$285 million and transfer the savings to the spending reduction amount, saving taxpayers from further subsidizing mature industries like coal and oil.
- **Farr**, which would strip the damaging provision in the base bill that would prohibit funding for the National Ocean Policy's marine planning and ecosystem-based management efforts. The National Ocean Policy facilitates improved coordination among government agencies and supports ocean health by ensuring that competing interests have a voice in creating solutions for the many challenges facing our oceans.

We urge you to oppose the following amendment:

- **Griffith**, which would reduce funding for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) programs by \$50 million and transfer that amount to Fossil Energy Research and Development. We should focus on developing new, clean sources of energy instead of doubling down on fossil fuels.

No matter the results of these amendment votes, we will continue to urge you to REJECT this 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