



## LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

February 2, 2016

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

### Re: LCV's position on pending amendments to S. 2012

Dear Senator,

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.

As noted in our previous letter on S.2012, the Energy Policy Modernization Act, we commend Senators Cantwell and Murkowski for their leadership and hard work to get this package to the floor. Unfortunately, we have some significant concerns with provisions in this bill that undermine environmental review and expedite approval for LNG exports, undermine existing furnace energy efficiency standards and the move toward fossil-free federal buildings, and limit protections for wildlife, fish and water quality at hydropower dams. We are pleased that this bill contains a permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, along with a strong energy efficiency title. We call on all Senators to stand against efforts by polluters to add amendments that threaten our air, water, lands, wildlife and climate and to support efforts that accelerate the necessary transition to a clean energy economy.

### We urge you to vote NO on:

- **Lee #3126:** This amendment would gut the Antiquities Act, the law first used to protect half of our national parks. The Antiquities Act has been used by 16 Presidents of both parties to protect many of America's most special places, from the Statue of Liberty to the Grand Canyon to the Pacific Remote Islands in Hawaii. This amendment would make permanent protections subject to Congressional approval, undermining the public interest in conservation and recreation. After 100 years of our National Park system, we should be supporting America's public lands, not undermining one of its best ideas.
- **Barrasso #3030:** This amendment would eliminate essential public input and environmental review for gas gathering lines and compressor stations that pose serious safety and environmental risks. These risks include explosions, leaks, water contamination, dangerous air pollution, and property damage. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) ensures the consideration of the health and safety risks associated with pipelines and other equipment, the public opinion, and the reasonable alternatives. Stifling this process promotes rushed and ill-considered decisions that do not fully weigh the pros and cons.
- **Sullivan #2996:** This extreme and shortsighted amendment requires federal agencies to eliminate one public protection before adopting a new one. This drastically limits the ability to quickly respond to public health or other threats as agencies must choose which groups deserve health and environmental protections. The amendment will prevent our government from

1920 L Street NW, Suite 800 • Washington, DC 20036 • 202-785-8683 • Fax: 202-835-0491  
lcv@lcv.org • www.lcv.org



## LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

reacting to growing awareness of health and safety threats while shielding companies from responsibility.

### We urge you to vote YES on:

- **Franken # 3115:** This amendment would establish a national energy efficiency resource standard (EERS) based on successful programs in Minnesota that requires electricity and natural gas providers to meet annual targets for cutting energy use in homes and businesses. Energy efficiency saves consumers money while reducing the public health and environmental risks from pollution. This amendment also sends a clear market signal that will spur research and development into energy efficient technologies.
- **Schatz #3176:** This amendment would phase out fossil fuel subsidies for coal and some of the largest producers of oil and gas over a four-year period, the same time period over which Congress recently decided to phase out tax credits for solar and wind. The fossil fuel subsidies phased out in this amendment represent billions of dollars of taxpayer handouts for a mature and highly-polluting industry – one of the most profitable in history.
- **Durbin #3095:** This amendment would increase funding at DOE's Office of Science, which supports American innovation and discovery across many fields. Investment in this office has led to the development of new technology and the discovery of new laws of physics. The Office of Science has also helped support the training of scientists, mathematicians, and engineers for more than half a century.

LCV will strongly consider including votes on amendments to S. 2012 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