



## LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

March 8, 2012

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: Oppose Anti-Environmental Amendments (1535, 1660, 1537, 1589, 1669), Support Pro-Environmental Amendments (1822, 1812, 1779) to the Senate Transportation Bill (S. 1813)**

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.

LCV urges you to vote NO on the following anti-environmental amendments to the transportation bill:

- **Vitter amendment (#1535):** This amendment would put virtually every coastline and coastal economy in our nation at risk by significantly expanding offshore drilling. It would reinstate President Bush's 2010-2015 five year leasing plan that opens up drilling in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, and in Alaska's Bristol Bay and Chukchi and Beaufort seas. This expansion would do nothing to reduce the price at the pump since oil prices are set on a global market. In fact, over the past three years the number of rigs in the U.S. has quadrupled while we have seen gas prices continue to rise.
- **Collins amendment (#1660):** This extreme amendment would threaten public health by rolling back the EPA's proposed clean air safeguards to reduce toxic air pollution, such as mercury, lead, and particulates from industrial boilers and incinerators. In response to industry's concerns, the EPA has re-proposed this rule and agreed to modify the definition of waste. This reckless amendment would lead to tens of thousands of premature deaths, over 17,000 heart attacks, and more than 180,000 asthma attacks.
- **Hoeven amendment (#1537):** This harmful amendment would lead to the construction of the dangerous Keystone XL tar sands pipeline, which was rejected by President Obama and which has no route. It irresponsibly asserts that no additional safety or environmental analysis is necessary. The Keystone XL tar sands pipeline would transport the world's dirtiest and most carbon polluting oil from the boreal forests of Canada 2,000 miles across America's heartland to an international shipping port on the Gulf coast.

LCV also urges you to oppose the **DeMint amendment (#1589)** which would repeal critically important incentives for renewable energy and the **McCain amendment (#1669)** which would threaten one of the nation's great treasures, the Grand Canyon by increasing the number of overflights allowed.

LCV urges you to vote YES on the following pro-environment amendments to the transportation bill:



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- **Nelson(FL)-Shelby-Landrieu amendment (#1822):** This amendment on the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and the RESTORE Act is the largest funding vehicle for conservation and restoration in a generation. Ensuring that the Gulf of Mexico is restored in the wake of the nation's worst environmental disaster and that the LWCF is funded at a record level of \$700 million a year for two years are top priorities for conservation and the environment.
- **Stabenow amendment (#1812):** This amendment would extend for one year tax incentives important to the expansion of clean energy sources, especially the wind industry (Production Tax Credit, Investment Tax Credit, and Section 1603). Unfortunately, this package also includes some incentives for harmful fuels, including coal-to-liquids that threaten our environment and exacerbate global warming. We will work to remove those provisions as this process moves forward.
- **Alexander amendment (#1779):** This amendment on flights over national parks reflects an agreement reached by the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Park Service on jurisdictional issues in the National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 2000.

LCV urges the Senate to move MAP-21 (S. 1813) forward because it takes important steps toward a 21<sup>st</sup> century transportation system, and we commend the bipartisan process that crafted this legislation. We will strongly consider including votes on this legislation and the numerous amendments 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