



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

July 9, 2015

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Oppose H.R. 2647, An Attack on Our Nation's Forests and Environmental Protections

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. 2647, which rolls back environmental protections, meddles with science-based decision making, and undermines public participation across our nation's vast forests. This bill would allow environmentally devastating projects to be rammed through for approval and skip the necessary environmental checks required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), grossly expanding exclusions meant only for non-controversial, small-scale forest management practices.

By legislatively promoting forest cuts, this bill represents another attempt by Congress to meddle in the science-based decision making process that should be made by scientists at the U.S. Forest Service and other land management agencies under existing law. Furthermore, by cutting the size of citizen advisory committees by nearly one-third, reducing public participation through the NEPA process, and requiring citizens to cover the costs ahead of time for *all* government legal fees before questioning an agency's actions in court, this bill curtails the public's ability to engage in our forest management process.

The goal of our nation's forest management should be to make forests more resilient to the impacts of climate change, drought, and excessive wildfires, but this bill does nothing to achieve those goals. Congress should support the flexibility inherent in our current laws rather than trying to legislatively make decisions for the Executive Branch.

We urge you to REJECT H.R. 2647. While no amendment outcomes will change our opposition to the underlying bill, we urge you to oppose any anti-environment amendments and support pro-environment amendments. We will strongly consider including votes on this bill in the 2015 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