



November 16, 2021

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support H.R. 5314, the Protecting Our Democracy Act

Dear Representative,

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) believes that a healthy, functioning democracy where all people can participate freely and equitably is necessary to address climate change, protect our communities, and deliver environmental justice. 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, the general public, and the media.

We urge you to vote YES on H.R. 5314, the Protecting Our Democracy Act, which would defend against emoluments and abuse of power, strengthen Congressional checks on the executive branch, protect whistleblowers and inspectors general, prevent foreign interference in elections, require presidential candidates to disclose their tax returns to the Federal Election Commission, and take other vital measures to secure the integrity of our constitutional system.

History has shown time and time again that the fossil fuel industry's influence pollutes the people's government as much as our environment. A robust democracy is critical to all of our rights, but especially members of marginalized groups who have few other ways to protect their interests. Low-income communities and communities of color have consistently and systematically been excluded from the political process, resulting in decades of environmental racism and a shameful lack of accountability for politicians and polluting corporations. By shoring up the rule of law and the integrity of our institutions, H.R. 5314 would go a long way toward ensuring American democracy works for the people, not the polluters.

For these reasons, LCV urges you to vote YES on H.R. 5314, the Protecting Our Democracy Act. We will consider including this vote in the 2021 *Scorecard*. If you need more information, please contact our government relations team.

Sincerely,

Gene Karpinski
President