



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

November 10, 2011

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Oppose McCain Amendment (S. 1720) – Extreme Assault on Environment, Public Health Safeguards

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 Senator McCain's amendment (S. 1720), the so-called Jobs Through Growth Act. This bill would wreak havoc on our environment and is an extreme assault on our government's ability to protect the public from a wide range of threats. While framed as a jobs bill, this legislation reads more like polluters' wish list. This legislation includes many of the reckless policy riders in the House-passed continuing spending resolution (H.R. 1), which this chamber rejected earlier this year. Just last week, the Senate again rejected many of the policies in this legislation when it voted down S. 1786.

If enacted, S. 1720 would stop the EPA from cleaning up harmful pollution, such as mercury, soot, smog, arsenic, lead, and carbon dioxide from some of our nation's biggest polluters. This would result in premature deaths and more hospital visits, especially for children and the elderly.

Demonstrating complete amnesia about the worst environmental disaster in our nation's history – the 2010 Gulf oil spill – this legislation would reduce oversight for drilling, force agencies to approve drilling permits without the time necessary for proper analysis, and open up our precious public lands for harmful tar sands development by private companies. It also includes a giveaway to huge agribusiness in prohibiting California from ensuring enough water is allocated to protect salmon and the smelt.

S. 1720 includes numerous titles that gut the regulatory process and make it next to impossible to hold corporations responsible and enforce existing safeguards that prevent food-borne illness, keep workers safe, reduce deadly pollution, and keep unsafe drugs and medical devices from entering the market. These provisions have drawn the opposition of a broad coalition, including labor, consumer, environmental, faith, health, public interest, food safety, and other groups.

LCV strongly urges you to reject this radical bill and will consider including votes on this legislation in the 2011 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