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### **Public Health Threatened by Senators' Dirty Air Bills**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Today, two U.S. Senators introduced dangerous legislation that seeks to block new public health protections. Senator John Barrasso (R-WY), along with seven other Senators, introduced a bill that would block limits on global warming pollution from federal agencies, undermining landmark laws like the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

At the same time, Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) introduced a bill to delay, for two years, Environmental Protection Agency limits on global warming pollution from coal-fired power plants, oil refineries and other stationary sources under the Clean Air Act. Coal-fired power plants are the largest single source of global warming pollution in the U.S.

Environment America Global Warming Program Director Nathan Willcox issued the following statement in response:

“Senators Barrasso and Rockefeller are doing the bidding of the nation’s biggest polluters, placing the health of our children, elderly citizens and other vulnerable populations at risk. The EPA and the Clean Air Act have been successfully protecting public health and the environment from dangerous pollution for four decades and this success should be built upon – not torn down.

“Global warming presents serious threats to our health, our economy, and our future. The year 2010 tied as the hottest year on record globally, and if left unchecked, global warming will lead to more deadly heat waves, more unhealthy air days, the spread of infectious disease, and more frequent and intense storms.

“Rather than letting the EPA do its job to protect public health and our environment, these senators are trying to give the biggest polluters a free pass to keep polluting and threatening our health. Congress should reject these attacks and instead stand up for cleaner air and a healthier future.”

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*Environment America is a national federation of state-based, citizen-funded environmental advocacy groups working for a cleaner, greener, and healthier future.*