

**1Sky \* Center for Biological Diversity \* Clean Air Task Force \* Clean Water Action  
Conservation Law Foundation \* Defenders of Wildlife \* Earthjustice  
Environmental Defense Fund \* Environment America  
Friends Committee on National Legislation \* Friends of the Earth \* Interfaith Power & Light  
League of Women Voters of the United States \* National Audubon Society  
Natural Resources Defense Council \* Republicans for Environmental Protection  
Safe Climate Campaign \* Sierra Club \* Southern Alliance for Clean Energy  
Southern Environmental Law Center \* The Wilderness Society \* Union of Concerned Scientists  
US Climate Action Network \* Voces Verdes \* Voices for Progress \* World Wildlife Fund**

April 6, 2011

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the millions of members, activists, and supporters our organizations represent, we urge you to oppose all amendments to S.493, the SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act of 2011, that would block the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ability to protect public health, including Senator McConnell's amendment (# 183), Senator Rockefeller's amendment (# 215), Senator Baucus's Amendment (# 236), and Senator Stabenow's amendment (#277). Each of these amendments will stop the work underway to clean-up health-threatening carbon dioxide pollution, putting families across the country at risk and stifling investment in a clean energy economy.

For 40 years, the EPA has protected our health and for 40 years the Clean Air Act has been reducing dozens of different air pollutants—all while contributing to America's economic prosperity. These amendments would block the EPA's authority to do this critical job, giving big polluters a free pass to spew carbon dioxide and other pollution without limit. Stopping the EPA from doing its job now means more Americans will suffer ill health, not fewer; more clean energy jobs will be outsourced overseas, and fewer American jobs will be created here at home.

Time and again, some in industry have made dire claims in order to avoid taking responsibility for polluting our air. And time and again, the industry predictions have proven false. In fact, between 1970 and 1990 the Clean Air Act returned \$42 in benefits for every dollar spent. And for every dollar spent cleaning up our air from 1990 to 2020, Americans are expected to receive 30 dollars in economic benefits. The Clean Air Act is a clear financial winner.

Medical professionals and public health organizations agree that carbon dioxide pollution is a serious public health issue. Compromising the work of the EPA means more Americans will suffer the impacts of severe asthma attacks, more children will end up in hospitals attached to respirators, and more seniors lives will be put at risk from heat waves and severe weather.

Once again, we urge you to oppose all amendments to S.493 that would block the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to protect public health. By doing so, you will stand up for our health, our economy, and our environment. The American people deserve the cleaner air, better health, and saved lives that are made possible by the Clean Air Act.

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