

February 15, 2011

Dear President Obama,

We write today to request your leadership and offer our assistance in defeating the House Republican leadership's assault on our families' health and our environment. To be clear, the GOP leadership's continuing resolution proposal (H.R. 1) amounts to the biggest and most dangerous assault on the air we breathe and the water we drink in recent memory.

Specifically, the proposed continuing resolution would:

- Threaten the health of our children, elderly citizens and other vulnerable populations by blocking EPA from enforcing the Clean Air Act and cleaning up coal-fired power plants and other large sources of carbon dioxide pollution. As your Administration pointed out last week, clean air regulations were estimated to save over 160,000 lives in 2010 alone. This success should be built upon—not torn down.
- Threaten drinking water supplies for over 117 million people and endanger thousands of streams and wetlands across the country by blocking EPA's ability to restore Clean Water Act protections for these waterways.
- Implement the largest percentage cut in EPA's overall budget in 30 years, severely threatening the Agency's ability to ensure that all Americans have clean air to breathe and clean water to drink.
- Waste energy and homeowners' money by slashing funding for home weatherization assistance. As your administration has touted, weatherizing Americans' homes is one of the cheapest and easiest ways to save money, cut energy use and reduce dangerous pollution.
- Carry out an unprecedented assault on wildlife by eliminating Endangered Species Act protections for wolves in Idaho, Montana, and parts of Washington, Oregon and Utah; and by blocking the implementation of scientifically-sound measures intended to prevent the complete collapse of San Francisco Bay-Delta ecosystem on which both fish and fishermen depend.
- Threaten commonsense protections for our wildest places and slash funding for parks. Cuts to the Department of the Interior would limit resources for environmental education programs for youth, park maintenance and public safety in an array of beloved national parks and wildlife refuges across the country.
- Thwart international efforts to tackle the causes and effects of climate change by slashing international funding pledged by the United States to tackle this problem. This will exacerbate global instability, threaten common sense investments that improve global human security and thwart the creation of critical markets worldwide for clean technology.

In the coming days and weeks, your leadership will be essential in ensuring that this unprecedented assault on our health and our environment is defeated. If the continuing resolution reaches your desk in the form proposed by the House leadership, we would urge you to veto it. We stand ready to assist you in this critical effort in whatever ways are necessary.

Sincerely,

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