



March 15, 2011

Dear Senator:

On behalf of The Wilderness Society and our over 500,000 members and supporters, I urge you to oppose Senator McConnell's amendment which adds the language of S.482: Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011 to S.493: the SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act of 2011. The McConnell amendment would deny the widely-accepted science that the health of the public is endangered by the massive dumping of carbon pollution each day into our skies. The Senate has a choice: to comply with the demands of big polluters to let them keep endangering public health, or instead to begin to reduce their carbon pollution responsibly.

Every day we wait to reduce heat-trapping pollution is another day we allow the dumping millions of tons of pollution into our skies, and another day we watch other countries move ahead of us in the race for a clean energy economy. Now is the time for America to lead; the health of our communities and our treasured landscapes are in the balance.

The Clean Air Act has a long and proven track record of protecting the health of our families, our economy, and our environment, and has saved Americans over \$21 trillion dollars since 1970 (see, e.g., [The Clean Air Act's Economic Benefits](#) (Small Business Majority, Oct 2010.)) The EPA is responding responsibly to the 2007 Supreme Court decision directing the Agency to use the Clean Air Act to address greenhouse gas pollution. Eliminating the EPA's ability to act is not in the best interests of America's health and prosperity, and simply guarantees that reducing carbon pollution will be even more costly in the future.

The EPA has received broad support from public health organizations, conservation organizations, auto workers, and auto manufacturers alike for its responsible implementation of tailpipe standards for automobiles. The agency's proposed regulations to reduce pollution from standing sources are similarly measured and responsible, affecting only the very largest emitters, taking advantage of the fact that just a few large companies account for the vast majority of carbon pollution.

The fact is that in the absence of strong climate and energy legislation from this Congress, EPA is our only backstop. EPA has proposed to build upon the successes of the Clean Air Act to create jobs, make our nation more secure, and reduce harmful pollution. We urge you to oppose any effort to obstruct or delay action on climate change under this landmark law.

Sincerely,

William H. Meadows
President

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