

**Center for Biological Diversity * Clean Water Action * Conservation Law Foundation
Defenders of Wildlife * Earthjustice * Environment America * Environmental Defense Fund
Greenpeace USA * League of Women Voters of the United States
National Parks Conservation Association * Natural Resources Defense Council
Physicians for Social Responsibility * Sierra Club
Southern Environmental Law Center * The Wilderness Society * Union of Concerned Scientists
World Wildlife Fund**

March 16, 2011

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the millions of members, activists, and supporters our organizations represent, we urge you to oppose Senator Rockefeller's amendment to S.493: the SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act of 2011. Issuing a stop-work order to the U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would accomplish nothing, other than allowing more dangerous pollution to be dumped into the air, and would guarantee U.S. companies fall further behind in the global competition for clean energy markets.

For 40 years, the EPA has protected our health by cleaning up life-threatening air pollution. This legislation 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 outsourced overseas, and fewer American jobs here at home.

The Clean Air Act has been successful in reducing dozens of different air pollutants, thereby protecting the health and the environment of millions of Americans, all while contributing to America's economic prosperity. Time and again, some in industry have made dire claims in order to avoid its responsibility for the pollution it pumps into our air. And time and again, the industry predictions have proven false. In fact, for every dollar spent, Americans have received 30 dollars in economic benefits in return, making this amendment the equivalent of burning money.

Medical professionals, public health organizations, and overwhelming scientific evidence all agree that carbon dioxide pollution is a serious public health issue. The EPA is already working to clean up this life-threatening pollution. Issuing a stop work order now means that the clean-up will stop—with no certainty when it will resume. That means more Americans will suffer the impacts of severe asthma attacks, more children will end up in hospitals attached to respirators, more of our seniors lives will be put at risk from heat waves and severe weather. Congress should be encouraging the EPA to do all it can to solve these problems, not turning a blind-eye.

Once again, we urge you to oppose Senator Rockefeller's amendment to S.493. Doing so means standing up for our health, our economy, and our environment. After decades of delay, the American people deserve the cleaner air, better health, and saved lives that can be made possible by the Clean Air Act.

Sincerely,

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