

*Alaska Wilderness League * Earthjustice * Environment America
Environmental Law & Policy Center * Friends of the Earth
League of Conservation Voters * Natural Resources Defense Council * Oceana
Safe Climate Campaign * Sierra Club * Western Environmental Law Center * Wildlands CPR*

February 1, 2012

Oppose H.R. 7 – American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act of 2012

Dear Representative,

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, our organizations urge you to oppose H.R. 7, the American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act. Instead of investing in infrastructure that creates good jobs and protects public health and the environment, this bill includes a raft of extreme anti-environmental proposals, to be funded by new drilling onshore, offshore and in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Specifically, we urge you to oppose the bill since it is riddled with provisions that:

- Gut our nation's landmark environmental review laws by severely restricting public engagement in the review process, expanding categorical exclusions and automatically approving projects if arbitrary deadlines are missed.
- Drive a truck-sized loophole through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program by allowing spending on pollution-generating highways.
- Eliminate dedicated funding for biking and walking infrastructure through the Transportation Enhancements and Safe Routes to School programs.
- Reduce funding for Amtrak by 25%.
- Increase the size and weight limits for heavy-duty vehicles.

The Republican leadership's American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act slashes funding for clean transportation choices, short-circuits environmental reviews, and is stapled to a set of controversial and extremely damaging drilling bills. The simple truth is that Congress can pass a bipartisan transportation bill that promotes transportation choices and protects public health and the environment and creates jobs.

Therefore we urge you to oppose HR 7, the American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act, and work to develop a transportation authorization that moves our nation's transportation system into the 21st century.

Sincerely,

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