



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

March 15, 2011

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: Oppose McConnell amendment (Senator Inhofe's S. 482)**

Dear Senator:

1920 L Street, NW  
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Washington, DC  
20036  
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The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) works to turn environmental values into national priorities. Each year, LCV publishes the *National Environmental Scorecard*, which details the voting records of members of Congress on environmental legislation. The *Scorecard* is distributed to LCV members, concerned voters nationwide, and the media.

LCV urges you to vote NO on the McConnell amendment to the SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act of 2011, which would append the text of Senator Inhofe's extreme legislation (S. 482). If passed, this reckless amendment would threaten public health, increase our oil dependence, and stop the EPA's scientists from doing their job.

The amendment seeks to gut the landmark Clean Air Act: a law that has saved hundreds of thousands of lives and cost-effectively spurred innovation throughout its 40 year history. In fact, the benefits provided by this critical public health law have exceeded costs by 30 to one. These benefits translate into lives saved, avoided hospital visits, and jobs created from innovations in pollution control technology, among others. Additionally, this ill-conceived amendment would increase our dependence on oil by undermining fuel economy standards at a time when rising gas prices should spur us to use less oil, not more.

LCV joins a broad coalition of organizations, spanning veterans, health, consumer, environment, small business, and labor in urging you to oppose efforts to block, weaken, or delay the EPA's commonsense steps to reduce pollution and protect public health.

We urge you to reject this irresponsible amendment that jeopardizes public health, increases our nation's dangerous dependence on oil, and substitutes political judgment for scientific analysis. We will strongly consider including a vote on this amendment in the 2011 Scorecard. If you need more information, please call Tiernan Sittenfeld, Sara Chieffo, or Alex Taurel in my office at (202) 785-8683.

Sincerely,

Gene Karpinski  
President