

Center for Biological Diversity • Clean Water Action • Earthjustice • Environment America • Environmental Defense Fund • Environmental Law and Policy Center • League of Conservation Voters • League of Women Voters • National Audubon Society • Natural Resources Defense Council • Sierra Club • Southern Environmental Law Center • Union of Concerned Scientists • US Climate Action Network

RE: OPPOSE Barrasso Cement Amdt #672, Johans PM 10 Amdnt #692,

October 5, 2011

Dear Senator:

On behalf of our millions of members, activists, and supporters, we urge you to oppose anti-environment amendments that may be offered in the Senate to S. 1619, The Currency Exchange Rate Oversight Reform Act. The amendments include Barrasso #672 which would weaken and delay toxic air pollutant standards for cement plants, and Johans #692 which would block updates to air quality standards for soot. These amendments are part of an extreme, ideological agenda that will not create jobs but will cost lives. It prioritizes the narrow interests of politically connected polluter industries over the broader goal of safeguarding the lives and health of our children, communities, and families.

Let us be absolutely clear: sacrificing tens of thousands of American lives will not create more jobs. Poisoning the air our children and our families breathe will not stimulate the economy. Burdening the American people with billions of dollars in avoidable health and other costs will not lead to sustained economic growth.

Instead, this so-called “jobs agenda” will sacrifice thousands of American lives every year. It will lead to more heart attacks, more respiratory illnesses, and more exposure to toxic mercury, a brain poison that particularly impacts young children and the unborn. It will force Americans to collectively miss countless work days each year to care for sick family members or for themselves and will further burden American families and businesses with out-of-pocket medical costs and higher health insurance premiums. And it will force Medicare and Medicaid to waste billions of taxpayer dollars treating preventable illness and disease caused by pollution.

Now more than ever, the American people need their members of Congress to work together to solve the nation’s problems in a bipartisan manner. We urge you to reject these polluter-led attacks on public health and focus instead on real solutions that grow the economy, not cost lives.

Sincerely,

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