

Center for Biological Diversity • Clean Water Action • Conservation Law Foundation • 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 • The Wilderness Society • Union of Concerned Scientists • US Climate Action Network

October 26, 2011

Dear Senator:

On behalf of our millions of members, activists, and supporters, we urge you to oppose strongly the suite of House-passed bills that are currently awaiting consideration in the Senate that would block the EPA's ability to clean-up life-threatening pollution. These bills are part of an extreme, ideological agenda will not create jobs, but it 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.

The House of Representatives' legislative schedule for the fall included a plan to repeal a host of recent and/or upcoming environmental standards that will protect public health by limiting dangerous pollutants like toxic mercury, arsenic, soot, smog, carbon dioxide, and coal ash from the nation's largest pollution sources, including coal plants, oil refineries, factories, and cement plants. This includes H.R. 2401, H.R. 2250 (companion to S. 1392), H.R. 2681, H.R. 2273 (companion to S. 1751), H.R. 1633 (companion to S. 1528) and any other bills or amendments that weaken our environmental public health standards.

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 hundreds of billions of dollars in health and welfare costs will not lead to sustained economic growth.

Instead, this so-called "jobs agenda" will sacrifice tens of thousands of American lives a year. It will lead to more heart attacks, more respiratory illnesses, and more children in the hospital hooked up to respirators. It will mean more exposure to toxic mercury, a brain poison that particularly impacts young children and the unborn.

This agenda will also hurt the economy and make it tougher for families to make ends meet. It will force Americans to collectively miss millions of days of work each year to care for sick family members or for themselves. It will force Medicare and Medicaid to waste billions of taxpayer dollars treating preventable illness and disease caused by pollution, and will further burden American families and businesses with out-of-pocket medical costs and higher health insurance premiums.

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 instead focus on real solutions that grow the economy, not cost lives.

Sincerely,

Center for Biological Diversity

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Conservation Law Foundation

Earthjustice

Environment America

Environmental Defense Fund

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League of Conservation Voters

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