

Alaska Wilderness League * American Bird Conservancy * American Rivers *
Appalachian Voices * Center for Biological Diversity * Chesapeake Bay Foundation *
Clean Water Action * Conservation Law Foundation * Defenders of Wildlife * Earthjustice *
Endangered Species Coalition * Environment America * Environmental Defense Fund *
Environmental Working Group * League of Conservation Voters *
National Audubon Society * National Estuarine Research Reserve Association *
Natural Resources Defense Council * Ocean Conservancy * Restore America's Estuaries *
Sierra Club * Southern Environmental Law Center * The Wilderness Society *
Trust for Public Land * Union of Concerned Scientists *

October 19, 2011

Dear Senator,

On behalf of our millions of members, activists and supporters, **we urge you to vote against any and all policy riders that harm health and the environment in the "minibus" appropriations bill (H.R. 2112)**, the legislative vehicle for the Agriculture, Commerce, Justice and Science, and Transportation/HUD appropriations bills. Riders do not save taxpayers a single cent, but they do cost citizens through the environmental and health harms they cause. In addition, riders are an inappropriate way to legislate environmental policy – burying complex policy changes in broad spending bills, usually with little debate, as a way to push through measures that otherwise could not become law and that lack public support. We also urge you to vote against any further damaging cuts to environmental and science programs in the bill.

Several harmful rider amendments have already been filed and many other amendments that would harm health and the environment may also come before the Senate. In order to keep our air clean, our water drinkable, and to protect our lands, ocean, wildlife and natural heritage, we need you to stand up to and vote against all policy riders that harm health and the environment offered on this bill.

Spending bills are difficult enough to pass without weighing them down with issues that have no effect on government spending.

Once again, **we urge you to oppose any and all policy rider amendments and further funding cuts that harm health and the environment in H.R. 2112.** Congress should be investing in America's future, not moving us backward by undermining bedrock laws or cutting funding for programs that protect our environment and our health.

Sincerely,

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