



NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION®

National Advocacy Center
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September 22, 2011

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the National Wildlife Federation, and our over 4 million members and supporters nationwide, I urge you to oppose the “Transparency in Regulatory Analysis of Impacts on the Nation (TRAIN) Act of 2011 (H.R. 2401) and any amendments that would further restrict the Clean Air Act from protecting public health and wildlife. The bill would further delay fundamental clean air protections, undermining our ability as a nation to protect public health and the environment. Specifically, the TRAIN Act would indefinitely delay implementation of the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) recently finalized Cross-State Air Pollution Rule and proposed Utility Air Toxics Rule, undermining long-overdue actions under the Clean Air Act to clean-up the nation’s biggest polluters.

With a legacy of bipartisan support, the Clean Air Act has a long history of success in reducing pollution such as acid rain and smog that threatens fish, wildlife, and their habitats. Now, the EPA is finally carrying out its legal obligation to protect wildlife and vulnerable communities from toxic air pollution by requiring power plants and other big polluters to use available and affordable pollution controls. More than 800,000 Americans from across the country have weighed-in to support the proposed Utility Air Toxics Rule. It is time Congress stood with the American people rather than polluters by supporting the EPA’s work to crack down on pollution.

Hunters, anglers, and outdoor enthusiasts know how widespread toxics such as mercury are in our environment, and that climate change is fundamentally altering our environment and putting fish and wildlife populations and our outdoor heritage at risk. Mercury emitted from power plants and other large sources settles from the air into our waterways where it’s converted into methylmercury, a highly toxic form of mercury. Methylmercury is accumulated up the food chain resulting in high levels of contamination in large and long-lived predators. When humans eat these species, such as walleye fish, we are exposed to the mercury. This exposure can cause damage to the brain, nervous system, kidneys, and liver. Children are especially at risk because the exposure can interfere with the nerve development in their brains. Congress should be supporting efforts to crackdown on the biggest polluters, not instilling new barriers to these health and wildlife protection standards.

The TRAIN Act represents another step in a wholesale retreat from our shared, longstanding national commitment to advance cleaner air and water and protect our natural resources for the benefit of all Americans. On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, I urge you to vote against H.R. 2401 in order to protect public health and our environment.

Sincerely,

Larry Schweiger
President & CEO