

**American Rivers * Center for Biological Diversity * Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Clean Water Action * Conservation Law Foundation * Defenders of Wildlife * Earthjustice
Environment America * Friends of the Earth * League of Conservation Voters
Natural Resources Defense Council * Republicans for Environmental Protection
Restore America's Estuaries * Sierra Club * Southern Environmental Law Center
The Wilderness Society * Union of Concerned Scientists * World Wildlife Fund**

November 7, 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. 2354), the legislative vehicle for the Energy-Water, Financial Services, and State-Foreign Operations 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 clean energy, environmental and science programs in the bill.

Previous attempts have been made to stall appropriations bills with irrelevant amendments that would harm health and the environment. 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. 2354. 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,
American Rivers
Center for Biological Diversity
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Clean Water Action
Conservation Law Foundation
Defenders of Wildlife
Earthjustice
Environment America
Friends of the Earth

League of Conservation Voters
Natural Resources Defense Council
Republicans for Environmental Protection
Restore America's Estuaries
Sierra Club
Southern Environmental Law Center
The Wilderness Society
Union of Concerned Scientists
World Wildlife Fund