



## LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

December 7, 2011

United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: Oppose H.R. 1633 – Addresses Non-Existent Problem, Threatens Public Health**

Dear Representative:

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) works to turn environmental values into national priorities. Each year, LCV publishes the *National Environmental Scorecard*, which details the voting records of members of Congress on environmental legislation. The *Scorecard* is distributed to LCV members, concerned voters nationwide, and the media.

LCV urges you to vote NO on H.R. 1633 – the so-called “Farm Dust Regulation Prevention Act.” This legislation while purporting to address the non-existent problem of farm dust regulation threatens public health by preventing review of health-based standards for harmful soot pollution. Soot, also referred to as coarse particulate matter poses proven health risks, including asthma attacks, strokes, and even death.

In the over 40 year history of the Clean Air Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has never regulated farm dust and Administrator Jackson has made clear they will not do so now. Under the Clean Air Act, the EPA is required every five years to study the national standards for soot pollution to ensure that the standard is based upon the best available science and medical evidence on what is safe to breathe. In October, the Administrator formally announced that the EPA will maintain current national standards for soot (also referred to as PM<sub>10</sub>), which were set in 1987 under the Reagan administration.

Given the EPA’s announcement, H.R. 1633 is unnecessary legislation that impacts far more than farm dust. By creating a broad new category of particle pollution that includes both fine and coarse particle pollution (“nuisance dust”), it could exempt many other industrial activities from health-based standards under the Clean Air Act, including mining, smelters, and coal-processing facilities. This legislation also makes it more difficult for states to protect their citizens against harmful particulate matter pollution.

We urge you to REJECT H.R. 1633. This extreme and unnecessary legislation threatens public health and fundamentally rewrites the Clean Air Act. We will strongly consider including votes on this bill in the 2011 Scorecard. If you need more information, please call Tiernan Sittenfeld, Sara Chieffo or Alex Taurel in my office at (202) 785-8683.

Sincerely,

Gene Karpinski  
President