Alaska's Big Village Network * Alaska Wilderness League * Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Water Advocacy * Clean Air Task Force * Conservation Law Foundation
Defenders of Wildlife * Earth Day Network * Earthjustice * Environment America
Friends Committee on National Legislation * Greenpeace USA * League of Conservation Voters
National Audubon Society * Natural Resources Defense Council * Northern Alaska Environmental Center
Ocean Conservancy * Ocean Conservation Research * Oceana * Pacific Environment * Public Citizen
Republicans for Environmental Protection * Sierra Club * Southern Environmental Law Center
Voices for Progress * The Wilderness Society * World Wildlife Fund

June 22, 2011

Dear Representative,

On behalf of our members and supporters, we ask you to oppose H.R. 2021, the *Jobs and Energy Permitting Act of 2011*. This legislation seeks to exempt the world's largest and most profitable corporations from important Clean Air Act requirements that otherwise require investment in air pollution controls for offshore drilling.

In the near term, this proposal poses an immediate threat to the health of the environment and communities in the Arctic. It is designed to allow Shell to sidestep air regulations and emit more than its fair share of air pollution into the Arctic atmosphere. The Clean Air Act's protections for public health and the environment should not be abandoned to serve the narrow interests of Shell. The geographic scope of this bill is not limited to the Arctic. If drilling were to occur in the Atlantic or Pacific Oceans, or the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, the same shortcuts would be available to oil companies and would promote their profit at the expense of local economic growth.

Specifically, the bill seeks to:

- Exempt offshore oil drilling companies from applying pollution control technology to vessels such as ice-breakers, which in the Arctic Ocean can account for up to 98 percent of air pollution from drilling;
- Create a similar loophole for drill ships, exempting from permitting requirements pollution from the ship while it moves into place;
- Allow offshore oil drilling companies to emit more air pollution at the expense of onshore development by measuring the impacts only at the shore, not at the pollution source itself; and
- Eliminate the review of permits by the Environmental Appeals Board.

Offshore drilling has significant environmental impacts. Shell's proposed 2010 drilling program in the Arctic would have released as much particulate matter into the air as more than 825,000 cars traveling 12,000 miles; over 1,000 tons of NO_2, a pollutant associated with respiratory illness; and over 57 tons of $PM_{2.5}$, a pollutant linked to respiratory illness and climate change.

This bill seeks to undercut the Clean Air Act and enable Big Oil to dodge air pollution standards designed to protect public health and the environment. Congress should reject this bill and instead ensure that companies that drill for oil off of our shores be held to the highest standards.

Sincerely,

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