



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

September 21, 2011

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Oppose the TRAIN Act (H.R. 2401) – Single Biggest Assault on the Clean Air Act in Its History

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. 2401, the TRAIN Act - the first in a suite of attacks on public health safeguards outlined in Majority Leader Cantor's Fall Agenda. Originally introduced as a "study bill" analyzing cumulative costs of several EPA clean air safeguards, H.R. 2401 has turned into the single biggest assault on the Clean Air Act in its forty year history. The new bureaucracy created by the original bill is unnecessary and biased. But last minute changes in committee and amendments that will be voted on this week fundamentally change the bill into an unprecedented assault on clean air.

If enacted, this reckless bill would block two of the most significant and long overdue clean air protections that reduce harmful pollution, like mercury, from power plants: the Mercury and Air Toxics Standard and the Cross State Air Pollution Rule. This translates into tens of thousands of lives lost each year, over 200,000 asthma attacks each year, and increased health care costs for families already struggling to make ends meet.

As if this weren't harmful enough, additional deadly and sweeping amendments will be voted on this week. Rep. Whitfield's amendment adds additional years of mandatory delays for both of these critical safeguards and bases toxic air pollution standards on the worst actors – not the industry leaders in cleaning up harmful pollution. Rep. Latta's amendment eliminates the central underpinning of the Clean Air Act, affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2001 that clean air standards must be based on what public health science tells us is safe to breathe.

LCV strongly urges you to reject this radical bill, as well as the Whitfield, Latta and other anti-environmental amendments, which will increase toxic air pollution, cost lives, drive up health care costs, and gut the Clean Air Act. We will strongly consider including votes on this bill and amendments 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