

July 8, 2024

Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members of the House Committee on Appropriations:

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, the 69 undersigned groups urge you to oppose the House Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) during the full committee markup this week. This bill would gut the agencies charged with protecting our environment and our health and would introduce an onslaught of radical anti-environmental policies that have no place in the appropriations process. This attack on our health, lands, wildlife, air, water, and oceans is unacceptable and must be rejected.

This bill does not just fail to address the climate and biodiversity crises; it would exacerbate them. As America faces record-breaking heat waves, the bill would defund climate resilience and emissions reduction programs while mandating new fossil fuel lease sales. It would slash the Environmental Protection Agency's budget by 20% while eliminating environmental justice programs entirely, opening the door to more hazardous pollution and cutting impacted communities out of the decision making process. Poison-pill policy riders would doom imperiled species to extinction and strip protections for iconic lands and waters.

This bill is riddled with so many outrageous policy attacks on our environment that it is impractical to list them individually. Similarly extreme riders were removed from the final FY24 Interior Appropriations bill just a few months ago; by going down this path again, we fear Congress is wasting valuable time that could be better spent producing bipartisan legislation that has a realistic chance of becoming law. We urge you to reject this proposal, which is equal parts damaging and unrealistic.

A final bill should be clean from any anti-environmental riders and should invest more—not less—in environmental agencies and programs. The harmful spending caps imposed last summer have hit agencies and programs hard, compounding a decade of atrophy wrought under previous budgetary restrictions. This attempt to cut their topline even further would have long-lasting consequences that would harm communities for decades to come.

We thank you for your consideration and stand ready to assist you in meeting our request.

Sincerely,

Alabama Interfaith Power & Light
Alaska Wilderness League Action
American Bird Conservancy
American Humanist Association
Animal Legal Defense Fund
Animal Welfare Institute
CCAN Action Fund
Center for Biological Diversity

Center for Environmental Health
Center For Food Safety
Chispa
Clean Water Action
Climate Action Campaign
Climate Crisis Policy
Climate Justice Alliance
Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life

Coalition to Protect America's National Parks
Conservation Lands Foundation
Defenders of Wildlife
Earthjustice
Earthworks
Elevate
Endangered Species Coalition
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Law & Policy Center
Environmental Protection Network
Environmental Working Group
Evergreen Action
Farmworker Association of Florida
Friends of the Earth
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
GreenLatinos
Greenpeace USA
Green Science Policy Institute
Illinois Environmental Council
Inland Ocean Coalition
Interfaith Power & Light
League of Conservation Voters
Los Padres ForestWatch
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition
National Ocean Protection Coalition
National Wildlife Federation

Natural Resources Defense Council
Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness
Ocean Conservancy
Ocean Defense Initiative
Oceana
Partnership for Policy Integrity
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Physicians for Social Responsibility PA
Rachel Carson Council
Sierra Club
Silvix Resources
Southern Environmental Law Center
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
Surfrider Foundation
Texas Impact
Texas Interfaith Power and Light
The Conservation Angler
The Earth Bill Network
The People's Justice Council
The Wilderness Society
The Xerces Society for Invertebrate
Conservation
Toxic-Free Future
Trust for Public Land
Western Watersheds Project
Wolf Conservation Center
Zero Hour