

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
S-230 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
H-204 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
S-128 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
H-307 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations
S-146A Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

April 25, 2017

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan, Minority Leader Pelosi, Chairman Cochran, Ranking Member Leahy, Chairman Frelinghuysen, and Ranking Member Lowey,

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters across the country, we urge you to negotiate a clean FY17 spending package that is free of any damaging anti-environmental, anti-science riders. These riders have no place in the appropriations process. They would damage vital public health and conservation safeguards that families across the nation value, and would only serve to inject more unpredictability and complications into an already challenging appropriations process.

We are alarmed at the profusion of policy riders targeting conservation programs and the environment. Nearly 150 anti-environmental poison pill riders were included across the FY17 appropriations bills and these would drastically undermine protections for our air, water, land, and wildlife. Americans will not stand for this assault on our families' safety and our nation's natural places, and they will support you in resisting every damaging anti-environmental, anti-science rider.

These riders' consequences would be immediate and devastating for families. They would threaten public health, and would pollute the drinking water of communities across the country. They would undercut agencies' ability to respond to climate change, and our nation's capacity to move forward on clean, affordable and sustainable energy efforts. Furthermore, they would irreparably damage bedrock conservation laws that an overwhelming majority of Americans strongly support: the Endangered Species Act, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Wilderness Act, Antiquities Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and more.

We urge you to negotiate a final FY17 appropriations package that is completely free of damaging anti-environmental, anti-science riders.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Alaska Wilderness League
American Acquisition Services, LLC
American Bird conservancy
American Society of Landscape Architects
Arizona Conservation Partners
Atomic Heritage Foundation
Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project
California Wilderness Coalition
Californians for Western Wilderness
Cascadia Wildlands
Center for Biological Diversity
Clean Water Action
Conserve Southwest Utah
Corporate Accountability International
Defenders of Wildlife
Earthjustice
Earthworks
East Bay Regional Park District
Endangered Species Coalition
Environment America
Environmental Protection Information Center
Environmental Working Group - EWG
Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park
Friends of the Earth
Friends of the Kalmiopsis
Friends of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks
Grand Canyon Trust
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Green Science Policy Institute
GreenLatinos
Greenpeace USA
Interfaith Power & Light
International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)
Islanders for the San Juan Islands National Monument
Kentucky Heartwood
Kestrel Land Trust
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center
League of Conservation Voters
Los Padres ForestWatch
Marine Conservation Institute
Maryland League of Conservation Voters
Michigan League of Conservation Voters
Milwaukee Riverkeeper
Mountain Lion Foundation
National Audubon Society

National Ocean Protection Coalition
National Parks Conservation Association
National Wildlife Refuge Association
National Wolfwatcher Coalition
Native Plant Conservation Campaign
Natural Resources Defense Council
North Country Trail Association
Oblong Land Conservancy
Ocean Conservancy
Oceana
Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund
Oregon Natural Desert Association
Oregon Wild
Palouse Land Trust
Partnership for the National Trails System
Population Connection Action Fund
Predator Defense
Protect the Wolves
Quality Parks
Red Wolf Coalition, Inc.
Restore America's Estuaries
San Juan Citizens Alliance
Save Wolves Now
Scenic America
Sierra Club
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
St. Croix River Association
Students for a Just and Stable Future
Sylvia Earle Alliance / Mission Blue
Texas League of Conservation Voters
The Mountain Pact
The Trust for Public Land
The Trustees
The Wilderness Society
The Wildlands Network
Tuleyome
Turtle Island Restoration Network
Union of Concerned Scientists
United States Tour Operators Association
Vet Voice Foundation
Voyageurs National Park Association
Washington Wild
Western Nebraska Resources Council
Western Watersheds Project

WildEarth Guardians
Wolf Conservation Center
Wyoming Untrapped