

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 Forests  
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 Defense Action Fund  
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.  
Rensselaer Plateau Alliance  
Restore America's Estuaries  
Safer Chemicals Healthy Families  
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  
Unites 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