

Alaska Wilderness League • American Alpine Club • American Bird Conservancy • American Canoe Association • American Rivers • American Forests • Amigos Bravos • Animal Welfare Institute • Arizona Conservation Partners • Arizona Wilderness Coalition • Born Free USA • California Wilderness Coalition • California Wolf Center • Californians for Western Wilderness • Cascadia Wildlands • Center for Biological Diversity • Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation • Clean Water Action • Conservation Northwest • Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship • Crow Canyon Archaeological Center • Defenders of Wildlife • Earthjustice • Earthworks • Endangered Species Coalition • Environment America • Environmental Investigation Agency • Epic – Environmental Protection Information Center • Friends of Arizona Rivers • Friends of Gold Butte • Friends of Ironwood Forest • Friends of Organ Mountains Desert Peaks • Friends of the Bitterroot • Friends of the Earth • Friends of the Kalmiopsis • Friends of the Sonoran Desert • Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Greater Yellowstone Coalition • Green Science Policy Institute • Greenpeace • Hells Canyon Preservation Council • Howling for Wolves • Idaho Conservation League • Klamath Forest Alliance • Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center • League of Conservation Voters • Living with Wolves • Los Padres ForestWatch • Midwest Environmental Advocates • Montana Wilderness Association • National Wildlife Refuge Association • National Wolfwatcher Coalition • Native Plant Conservation Campaign • Natural Resources Defense Council • Northcoast Environmental Center • Northeast Oregon Ecosystems • Ocean Conservancy • Oceana • Oregon Natural Desert Association • Oregon Wild • ORV Watch Kern County • Predator Defense • Public Interest Coalition • San Juan Citizens Alliance • Scenic America • Sequoia ForestKeeper • Sierra Club • Soda Mountain Wilderness Council • Southern Environmental Law Center • Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance • Swan View Coalition • The Trust for Public Land • Western Watersheds Project • The Wilderness Society • Tuleyome • Turtle Island Restoration Network • WildEarth Guardians • Wildlands Network • Winter Wildlands Alliance • Wolf Conservation Center

July 11, 2016

Dear Member of Congress,

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters nationwide, we write in strong opposition to the Fiscal Year 2017 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. We urge you to oppose this bill should it come to a vote on the House floor, oppose any additional amendments that would undermine protections for our land, air, water and wildlife, and support any amendments to strike these harmful riders.

This bill has once again become a target for dozens of anti-environmental and superfluous policy provisions, which have no place in the appropriations process. This legislation and the agencies it funds are tasked with responsibly stewarding our land, air, water and wildlife and indeed the shared heritage of all Americans. Instead of fulfilling this substantial responsibility, this bill targets protections that would keep our communities healthy, our air clean, our drinking water safe, protect

our rivers and oceans from unlimited dumping of waste, and protect our imperiled wildlife from substantial harm.

Among approximately 30 anti-environmental riders in this legislation, there are provisions that would undermine the country's efforts to address climate change and protect our clean air and water, weaken land conservation, undermine farmworker protections, undercut endangered species and public health protections. These riders are aimed directly at reducing the efficacy of bedrock conservation laws like the Endangered Species Act, Antiquities Act, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act and have no place in appropriations legislation. Critical funding legislation should not be held hostage by unrelated and damaging anti-environmental riders.

This bill also makes some severe funding cuts which we strongly oppose. Funding for the Environmental Protection Agency is reduced dramatically, which would only serve to further undermine the protections that Americans support for clean air and water. The Land and Water Conservation Fund is cut by almost 30% below the enacted level and is well below the authorized level of \$900 million. The proposed reduction would substantially threaten incompatible development within—and public access to—federally-protected lands that bolster a robust recreational economy and provide places of refuge and healthy recreation for American families. Funding to list new species under the Endangered Species Act is also cut by nearly 30%, meaning more species in need of protection will slide closer to extinction.

In addition, structural wildfire suppression funding issues have still not been addressed, causing damaging constraints to the entire bill. The failure to identify an alternative funding mechanism for fire suppression has contributed to fire suppression costs exceeding 55 percent of the US Forest Service's budget.

So many of the programs funded by this bill are indispensable to the fundamental health of our environment and our communities. Congress should be investing in America's future—not moving us backward by undermining bedrock laws or cutting funding for programs that help our communities thrive. We urge you to oppose this bill on the floor; vote NO on final passage and on any additional amendments that undermine protections for our land, air, water and wildlife. We also urge you to support any efforts to strike these damaging provisions.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

Alaska Wilderness League
American Alpine Club
American Bird Conservancy
American Canoe Association
American Rivers
American Forests
Amigos Bravos
Animal Welfare Institute
Arizona Conservation Partners

Arizona Wilderness Coalition
Born Free USA
California Wilderness Coalition
California Wolf Center
Californians for Western Wilderness
Cascadia Wildlands
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation
Clean Water Action
Conservation Northwest
Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship
Crow Canyon Archaeological Center
Defenders of Wildlife
Earthjustice
Earthworks
Endangered Species Coalition
Environment America
Environmental Investigation Agency
Epic – Environmental Protection Information Center
Friends of Arizona Rivers
Friends of Gold Butte
Friends of Ironwood Forest
Friends of Organ Mountains Desert Peaks
Friends of the Bitterroot
Friends of the Earth
Friends of the Kalmiopsis
Friends of the Sonoran Desert
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Greater Yellowstone Coalition
Green Science Policy Institute
Greenpeace
Hells Canyon Preservation Council
Howling for Wolves
Idaho Conservation League
Klamath Forest Alliance
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center
League of Conservation Voters
Living with Wolves
Los Padres ForestWatch
Midwest Environmental Advocates
Montana Wilderness Association
National Wildlife Refuge Association
National Wolfwatcher Coalition
Native Plant Conservation Campaign
Natural Resources Defense Council
Northcoast Environmental Center

Northeast Oregon Ecosystems
Ocean Conservancy
Oceana
Oregon Natural Desert Association
Oregon Wild
ORV Watch Kern County
Predator Defense
Public Interest Coalition
San Juan Citizens Alliance
Scenic America
Sequoia ForestKeeper
Sierra Club
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council
Southern Environmental Law Center
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
Swan View Coalition
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