

May 5, 2020

Senator Richard Shelby
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative Nita M. Lowey
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shelby, Chairwoman Lowey, Ranking Member Leahy and Ranking Member Granger:

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters across the country, thank you for your ongoing work to provide for families and businesses during this difficult time. We recognize how challenging it must be to also draft bills for Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) while engaging in that important work. We write to respectfully request your support for our environment by increasing suballocations for relevant subcommittees and ensuring that COVID-related costs are provided for in emergency titles.

Agencies that oversee clean air and water, public lands, wildlife and recreation have been struggling with underfunding for years. Though we recognize the limited allocation this year, we respectfully ask you to increase 302(b) levels in FY21 for subcommittees that oversee environmental priorities.

We also urge you to cover emergency costs that agencies incur this year through emergency funding titles. This is necessary because agencies and programs overseeing environmental priorities must be able to dedicate, at a minimum, the same resources as last year toward their missions—rather than drawing from those funds to pay expenses related to COVID-19.

Agencies and programs tasked with important environmental functions are charged with effectively safeguarding our wildlife, natural and historic landmarks, oceans, drinking water, air quality and more. These essential institutions also advance science and research, which provide a guiding light for informed decision making. However, without proper funding, they will be unable to fulfill their duties. Setting appropriate 302(b) levels is the first step toward ensuring they successfully carry out their fundamental missions and obligations.

Environmental funding is a priority for our groups and our community. We stand ready to support your leadership in meeting this funding request. Thank you for considering our views and again for your work to meet America's needs during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Alaska Wilderness League Action
American Bird Conservancy
American Hiking Society
Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Clean Water Action
Climate Law & Policy Project
Conservation Lands Foundation
Defenders of Wildlife
Earthjustice
Earthworks
Endangered Species Coalition
Environment America
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Law & Policy Center
Environmental Protection Network
Environmental Working Group
Friends of the Earth

Humane Society Legislative Fund
Interfaith Power & Light
League of Conservation Voters
National Audubon Society
National Parks Conservation Association
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
Ocean Conservancy
Oceana
Oxfam America
Public Lands Alliance
Sierra Club
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
The Trust for Public Land
The Wilderness Society
The Wildlife Society
Union of Concerned Scientists