

Alaska Wilderness League Action* American Horse Protection Society* American Wild Horse Campaign
*Animal Wellness Action * Center for Humane Economy * Center for Biological Diversity * Clean Water
Action * Defender of Wildlife * Earthjustice * Endangered Species Coalition * Environment America *
International Fund for Animal Welfare * League of Conservation Voters * National Audubon Society *
National Parks Conservation Association * NRDC * Ocean Conservancy * Sierra Club * The Wilderness
Society

July 23, 2020

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, we urge you to support H.R. 7608, *The Fiscal Year 2021 Minibus I “State and Foreign Operations, Agricultural and Rural Development, Interior and Environment, and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs.”* This bill provides \$9.37 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency, increases funding for national parks, while protecting and prioritizing public health, all while promoting solutions that preserve natural landscapes, and continue to protect endangered species and other wildlife. The bill also directs much-needed emergency funding to priority environmental programs that address climate change, protect clean water, and invest in green and natural infrastructure.

While not all undersigned organizations work directly on each of these issues, we appreciate your consideration of these pro-environmental positions. In advance of votes on amendments to the first appropriations “minibus” (H.R. 7608), please find voting recommendations for some of the amendments currently made in order and not yet dispensed with by voice vote under the following Divisions.

We urge a YES vote on the following amendment:

Blunt-Rochester (DE) #62 (Interior-Environment)

VOTE YES on this amendment as it seeks to block EPA from finalizing, implementing, or enforcing the "Review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter." This rule fails to protect communities within the margin of safety and communities of color from air pollution during a global health pandemic, especially those where there are disproportionately high rates of death due to toxic pollution.

We urge a NO vote on the following amendments:

Allen (GA) #11 (Interior-Environment)

VOTE NO on this amendment as the agencies and programs tasked with stewarding our clean air, water, wildlife, lands, and public health have been too long underfunded. Added funding is needed to recover from these insufficient investments and this amendment would undermine that effort.

Biggs (AZ) #19 (Interior-Environment)

VOTE NO on this amendment that prevents the transfer of funds authorized by the Great American Outdoors Act to the LWCF, effectively defunding this important program.

Miller (WV) #33 (Interior-Environment)

Vote NO on this amendment as it hinders the ability for Congress to get answers to critical questions regarding the use of force by United States Park Police during the events on June 1st 2020 at Lafayette Square in Washington, D.C.

Perry (PA) #35 (Interior-Environment)

VOTE NO on this amendment as it stops EPA from overseeing the region wide clean-up plan that states are currently implementing. The amendment is an attempt to stop a federal-state-local cooperative restoration program that is working. The Chesapeake watershed supports the health of more than 50 national parks that benefit from the important gains to water quality and habitat restoration.

Smith (MO) #48 (Interior-Environment)

VOTE NO on this amendment which moves to reduce funding for the EPA Environmental program and management to wholly underfund the EPA and programs as congruent with the President's FY21 budget request.

Smith (MO) #50 (Interior-Environment)

VOTE NO on this amendment as it proposes to reduce funding for EPA Science and Technology office to match the President's FY21 Budget Request.

Vote YES on En Bloc #1

Cohen (TN) #23 (Agriculture)

VOTE YES on this amendment that would provide \$750,000 in funding for the USDA's Office of Inspector General to complete an audit report of the USDA's Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service's Administration of the Horse Protection Program, Enforcement of the Horse Protection Act, and the Slaughter Horse Transport Program no later than July 31st, 2021.

Neguse (CO) #30 (Agriculture)

VOTE YES on this amendment would transfer \$1 million in funding to the USDA Office of the Inspector General for expenses necessary for the enforcement of anti-animal cruelty statutes. This would allow for improved enforcement of the animal fighting law.

Barragan (CA) #15 (Interior-Environment)

VOTE YES on this amendment as it would transfer 1 million dollars in funding from the Department of Interior Operations to the Environmental protection Agency's Targeted Airshed Grant program. The Airshed Grant program assists local, state, and/or tribal air pollution control agencies to develop plans and conduct projects to reduce air pollution in nonattainment areas that EPA determines are the top five most polluted areas relative to ozone, annual average fine particulate matter (PM2.5), or 24-hour PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Cohen (TN) #6 (Interior-Environment)

VOTE YES on this amendment as it would require the Bureau of Land Management to utilize \$11,000,000 of its Wild Horse and Burro Program budget to implement PZP humane, reversible fertility control to manage wild horse populations. This urges BLM to use at least 10% of its WHBM budget to implement fertility control, which is proven effective to help manage horse populations.

Dingell (MI) #55 (Interior-Environment)

VOTE YES on this amendment as it would prevent federal funds from being used to (1) withdraw the Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to designate PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under section 102 of CERCLA;

and (2) to withdraw EPA's preliminary regulatory determination to regulate PFOA and PFOS as drinking water contaminants under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Hudson (NC), Dingell (MI) #22 (Interior-Environment)

VOTE YES on this amendment as it would increase the EPA Science and Technology account by \$2million dollars to study the relationship between PFAS exposure and susceptibility to COVID-19. As we know COVID-19 is an upper respiratory infection that has increased mortality for those with pre-existing conditions and respiratory conditions. The goal would be to look at any health-related links or outcomes between PFAS exposure and COVID-19.

Hudson(NC) #77 (Interior-Environment)

VOTE NO as this amendment would focus funds towards road construction in the Forest Service within the capital maintenance account. US Forest Service lands do not need additional roads, there are already far too many roads on Forest Service land that are in need of deferred maintenance funds. These existing roads that are falling apart are causing large problems with erosion and watersheds, seriously impacting drinking water and fish. We should be investing in decommissioning roads and fixing roads to rectify the issue, not building new roads

Vote YES on En Bloc #2

Adams(NC) #69 (Interior-Environment)

VOTE YES on this amendment as it would add critical funding by \$2,000,000 for the Environmental Justice Program within the EPA Environmental Programs Management Account.

Dingell (MI) #53 (Interior-Environment)

VOTE YES on this amendment as it would prevent agencies from implementing the Trump administration's final rule gutting the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ's) implementing regulations for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). CEQ's final NEPA rule seeks to restrict public input on major federal projects like taxpayer-financed infrastructure and will actually slow down the permitting process by increasing regulatory uncertainty. The rule also seeks to entrench federal climate denial by eliminating the analysis of indirect and cumulative effects.

Jayapal (WA) #8 (Interior-Environment)

VOTE YES on this amendment as it would prevent funds from being used to implement an extreme set of newly released wildlife management regulations on Alaska's National Preserves. In particular, the new Trump administration rules would allow the killing of black bear sows and cubs while they hibernate and the shooting of wolves and coyotes and their pups while they are denning with their young. These state-endorsed practices are designed to reduce and manipulate predator populations to allow for increased human sport hunting, which runs contrary to wildlife management objectives and laws on federal public lands.

Kennedy (MA), Haaland (NM) #65 (Interior-Environment)

VOTE YES on this amendment as it seeks to protect tribal lands from being removed from federal trust status or disestablish existing reservation lands. This amendment would protect all 574 tribal nations within the United States.

Neguse (CO) #13 (Interior-Environment)

VOTE YES on this amendment as it will increase funds for the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) from the department operations account. CFLRP funding has been stuck far below the full authorized amount, but it is an important and positive program for both fire mitigation and restoration/conservation of the forest that includes the voices of the community in developing projects.

Panetta (CA) #12 (Interior-Environment)

VOTE YES on This amendment as it is modeled after The California Central Coast Conservation Act. (HR 5303). This will prevent funds made available to nominate or accept oil and gas leasing. This will also prevent permitting and exploration activities (oil, gas, minerals) on Federal lands.

Tlaib (MI) #71 (Interior-Environment)

VOTE YES on this amendment as it would increase the appropriation for lead service line replacement to a total of \$1 billion, a \$500 million dollar increase from the committee-reported bill. This is a timely investment in removing the 6 to 10 million lead service lines that contaminate our tap water. The amendment would prioritize funding for low-income "disadvantaged communities" (as defined in the Safe Drinking Water Act), and also would require that lead service lines must be fully replaced to receive funding.

Huffman(CA) #5 (Interior-Environment)

VOTE YES this amendment would prevent funds from being used for oil and gas leasing in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The Trump administration's proposed leasing program does not fulfill the commitments made during the passage of the 2017 Tax Act to raise the \$1 billion for the Federal Treasury. The leasing program also fails to protect vital subsistence resources like the Porcupine caribou herd, or other sensitive or threatened species like polar bears. Opening the entire 1.5 million acres of the coastal plain to leasing has come at the cost of the environment and American taxpayers.

Lowenthal (CA) #24 (Interior-Environment)

VOTE YES on this amendment as it would prevent funds from being used for oil and gas leasing in designated Special Areas of the National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska (Reserve) protected under the 2013 Integrated Activity Plan (IAP) including Teshekpuk Lake. The Reserve's current IAP was the result of a robust scientific and public engagement process and includes protections for approximately 11 million acres, about half of the 23-million-acre Reserve while allowing oil and gas leasing in the rest of the Reserve. The Trump administration is now moving forward with an aggressive plan to open over 80% of the Reserve to oil and gas leasing, a total of approximately 18 million acres. New oil and gas leasing threaten the unique ecological values of the Reserve.

Vote NO on En Bloc #3

Luetkemeyer (MO) #27 (State and Foreign Operations)

VOTE NO on Luetkemeyer #27 as this destructive and unwise amendment, which would eliminate funding for key U.S. programs that fight climate change. The UNFCCC helps the nations of the world voluntarily collaborate to find shared solutions to the climate crisis. It is the world's premier diplomatic venue for international climate change solutions. The IPCC is the world's premier international body dedicated to synthesizing climate science and assessing the projected impacts of global warming -- including the work of leading U.S. scientists. Its work is nonpartisan and widely-respected.

Gosar (AZ) #2 (Interior-Environment)

VOTE NO on this amendment that would prohibit any funds to be used to violate Executive Order 13807. This EO would slash the time and resources that agencies need for planning and assessing major infrastructure projects including pipeline projects. Decreasing planning and assessment time on major infrastructure project including pipelines, could have damaging environmental impacts due to lack of scientific data and analysis that the project may have on the environment. Lastly, this amendment

would essentially allow EO 13807 to go forward, and hurt communities for which projects are slated to be implemented.

Gosar (AZ) #3 (Interior-Environment)

VOTE NO on this amendment that continues support of an Executive Order that pressures regulators for faster permitting of so-called 'critical minerals' mines. This EO cloaks the negative community impacts of mining under a shroud of national security. The EO's real purpose: limiting the rights of communities, such as tribes, threatened by pollution from mining projects. The mining industry is considered the most toxic industry in America and has left a legacy of death and destruction across the West. Science and appropriate review should not be removed for the financial benefit of massive mining companies.

McKinley (WV) #57 (Interior-Environment)

VOTE NO as this amendment prevents funds from being used in contravention of Executive Order 13868, which aims to weaken effective environmental reviews for dirty energy projects and other harmful development. Among other things, this amendment would roll back state and tribal authority under the Clean Water Act to protect their own waters from destructive projects.

Miller (WV) #34 (Interior-Environment)

VOTE NO as this amendment proposes to allow the finalization of the proposed rule "Oil and Natural Gas Sector: Emission Standards for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources Review as published by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Smith (MO) #1 (Interior-Environment)

VOTE NO as this amendment would prevent EPA from being able to use federal funds from being used to regulate lead in ammunition and fishing tackle as defined under the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA).

King, Steve (IA) #33 (Military Construction-VA)

VOTE NO on this amendment as it would strike a provision in the bill that prohibits the administration from transferring military construction funds to build barriers and roads on the southern border. This amendment would allow the President to continue building a hateful and wasteful border wall under unconstitutional national Emergency Declaration by sacrificing needed military construction projects.