**Center for Biological Diversity · Defenders of Wildlife · Earthjustice · Earthworks**

**League of Conservation Voters ·**

**Natural Resources Defense Council · The Wilderness Society · Sierra Club**

March 4, 2021

**OPPOSE ALL ANTI-ENVIRONMENTAL & SUPPORT ALL PRO-ENVIRONMENTAL AMENDMENTS TO THE COVID RELIEF RECONCILIATION BILL (H.R. 1319)**

Dear Senator,

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters across the country, we urge you to oppose amendments to H.R. 1319 that threaten our air, water, lands, wildlife, climate and public health. We also oppose any Motion to Commit amendments that would delay or endanger the passage of much-needed relief. The legislation seeks to address the pandemic that is devastating our country and is an inappropriate vehicle for any riders that threaten our environment.

This is one of what we expect to be a series of letters today & tonight as additional amendments are offered. All organizations listed may not work on, our have expertise in, every amendment included.

**We strongly encourage you to OPPOSE the following amendments:**

Hagerty #909: This amendment would eliminate badly needed funding to mitigate the disproportionately large damage that the pandemic is having on the health of communities of color. The pandemic has devastated communities of color where health impacts are exacerbated by poor environmental conditions. The funding that this amendment would strip is an essential step to invest in environmental and health improvements needed to address the pandemic. Eliminating it continues a dangerous ideological path of ignoring the impacts of the pandemic, risking people's lives.

Ernst #917: This amendment would eliminate badly needed funding to mitigate the disproportionately large damage that the pandemic is having on the health of communities of color. The pandemic has devastated communities of color where health impacts are exacerbated by poor environmental conditions. The funding that this amendment would strip is an essential step to invest in environmental and health improvements needed to address the pandemic. Eliminating it continues a dangerous ideological path of ignoring the impacts of the pandemic, risking people's lives. While broadband investment is needed, it should not come attached to language that endangers lives.

Ernst #921: The 30D credit promotes tens of thousands of American jobs - in Iowa and elsewhere - in manufacturing and related industries, while lessening obstacles for consumers to buy vehicles that will save them thousands of dollars over the lifetime of their vehicles, by taking volatile gas prices out of their budgets. And that’s before we consider the carbon emissions savings of the credit. This amendment is anti-jobs, anti-consumer and against taking action on climate change that is making life harder for Iowan farmers.

Ernst #931: This amendment cynically pits two communities in need against one another. As the energy transition continues, resources should absolutely be made available to pipeline and other workers facing economic uncertainty and displacement. There is, however, no reason to hold hostage COVID-19 relief funds needed urgently across the country to achieve this aim. This amendment would delay relief badly needed by millions of Americans, including those in the pipeline sector.

Daines #958: This amendment would eliminate badly needed funding to mitigate the disproportionately large damage that the pandemic is having on farmers and ranchers of color. The funding that this amendment would strip will help food systems in communities of color recover and increase economic resilience moving forward. Eliminating it continues a dangerous ideological path of ignoring the impacts of the pandemic, risking people's lives.

Daines #960: This amendment would unacceptably undermine our bedrock environmental laws. Projects like pipelines crossing international borders should be subject to rigorous review under the National Environmental Policy Act and their impacts, including on local communities and the climate, should be carefully considered. Compelling Presidential approval after only 90 days renders irrelevant any environmental concerns raised as a result of review and runs roughshod over the right of communities to participate in the comment process.

Johnson #994: This amendment would eliminate badly needed funding to mitigate the disproportionately large damage that the pandemic is having on the health of communities of color. The pandemic has devastated communities of color where health impacts are exacerbated by poor environmental conditions. The funding that this amendment would strip is an essential step to invest in environmental and health improvements needed to address the pandemic. Eliminating it continues a dangerous ideological path of ignoring the impacts of the pandemic, risking people's lives.

Toomey #1010: This amendment would eliminate badly needed funding to mitigate the disproportionately large damage that the pandemic is having on farmers and ranchers of color. The funding that this amendment would strip will help food systems in communities of color recover and increase economic resilience moving forward. Eliminating it continues a dangerous ideological path of ignoring the impacts of the pandemic, risking people's lives.

Toomey #1011: This amendment would reduce badly needed funding to mitigate the disproportionately large damage that the pandemic is having on farmers and ranchers of color. The funding that this amendment would reduce will help food systems in communities of color recover and increase economic resilience moving forward. Eliminating it continues a dangerous ideological path of ignoring the impacts of the pandemic, risking people's lives.

Toomey #1012: This amendment would functionally eliminate badly needed funding to mitigate the disproportionately large damage that the pandemic is having on farmers and ranchers of color. The funding that this amendment would essentially strip will help food systems in communities of color recover and increase economic resilience moving forward. Eliminating it continues a dangerous ideological path of ignoring the impacts of the pandemic, risking people's lives.

Sullivan #1021, #1025: This amendment would eliminate badly needed funding to mitigate the disproportionately large damage that the pandemic is having on the health of communities of color. The pandemic has devastated communities of color where health impacts are exacerbated by poor environmental conditions. The funding that this amendment would strip is an essential step to invest in environmental and health improvements needed to address the pandemic. Eliminating it continues a dangerous ideological path of ignoring the impacts of the pandemic, risking people's lives. There is no doubt that similar impacts are being felt across rural communities but this is an opportunity to help both types of communities.

Johnson #1079: This amendment would reduce funding that is intended to help low-income families who are facing economic crisis because of the pandemic pay for their water bills. This increases the risk of widespread water shutoffs that will exacerbate the pandemic. The CDC recommends a key way to avoid the spread of COVID is to regularly wash hands and clean and disinfect your home. Millions of Americans cannot pay their water bill and are at risk of having their water shut off, making it near impossible to comply with CDC recommendations.

Tester #1197: This amendment would override President Biden’s decision to block the Keystone XL pipeline by authorizing the construction and operation of border-crossing facilities without a presidential permit. Construction of the Keystone XL pipeline would lock in decades of greenhouse gas emissions by transporting the world’s dirtiest and most environmentally destructive form of oil – “tar sands.” The pipeline is opposed by many federally recognized tribes including the Rosebud Sioux and Gros Ventre tribes and Fort Belknap Indian Community. Should Keystone XL rupture, it has the potential to cause irreparable damage to the environment and would threaten the clean drinking water of tens of thousands of Americans. Contrary to the wild claims of TC Energy, the Keystone XL pipeline is not a major source of jobs. The State Department’s own study suggests that far fewer jobs will be created and most of them will be non-local and temporary. Once completed, the Keystone XL Pipeline will only require 35 permanent employees to operate.

Sincerely,

Center for Biological Diversity

Defenders of Wildlife

Earthjustice

Earthworks

League of Conservation Voters

Natural Resources Defense Council

The Wilderness Society

Sierra Club