

Alaska Wilderness League Action * American Rivers * Appalachian Trail Conservancy * Clean Water Action * Conservation Lands Foundation * Defenders of Wildlife * Earthjustice * Endangered Species Coalition * Environmental Defense Fund * Friends of the Earth U.S. * League of Conservation Voters * National Audubon Society * National Parks Conservation Association * Natural Resources Defense Council * Ocean Conservancy * Oceana * Sierra Club * Southern Environmental Law Center * The Wilderness Society * Pacific Environment * Oil Change U.S.

July 27, 2021

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, we urge you to support H.R. 4502, the Fiscal Year 2022 Minibus, *“Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Agriculture, Rural Development, Energy and Water Development, Financial Services and General Government, Interior, Environment, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2022.”*

Among other accomplishments, the bill provides \$11.4 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency, a significant increase, and adopts a whole-of-government approach to environmental justice, climate change, and public health while taking important steps to address the protection and preservation of landscapes and 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. Our nation's communities, lands, wildlife, air, ocean, and water would all benefit substantially from this bill.

While not all undersigned organizations work directly on each of these issues or have taken a position of support on H.R. 4502, we appreciate your consideration of these pro-environmental positions. In advance of votes on amendments to the first appropriations “minibus” (H.R. 4502), please find voting recommendations for some of the most crucial amendments currently made in order and not yet dispensed with by voice vote under the following En blocs. We strongly urge a yes vote on the final passage of H.R. 4502.

We urge a YES vote on the following en blocs:

En Bloc #2 - Vote YES

63. Escobar (TX) - Civilian Climate Corps is an opportunity to create thousands of good paying jobs for Americans in a clean economy. It will also give people a chance to work in their communities and while helping to tackle one of the largest challenges facing our future: climate change.

83. Barragán (CA) - This amendment would highlight how important it is for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to fully consider the climate change and environmental justice impacts of proposed energy and pipeline projects.

86. Bush, Cori (MO), Ocasio-Cortez (NY), Jones, Mondaire (NY) - The fossil energy and carbon management department props up problematic technologies opposed by Black environmental justice

leaders who fear they will only serve to subsidize fossil fuels and extend their use in low income communities. Meanwhile, the EERE is the key climate mitigation department in all of the federal government in terms of focus.

88. Casten (IL), McEachin (VA), Foster (IL) - As credit subsidy costs are among the most expensive components of applying for a federal loan guarantee, additional funding for credit subsidies would lower the barriers to entry for smaller innovative companies that otherwise might not have the resources to apply to the LPO.

100. Ocasio-Cortez (NY) - This amendment would create a backstop to prevent DOE R&D funds from being used to improve the efficiency of fracking technologies, for example.

En Bloc #3 - Vote YES

61. Davis, Danny K (IL) - NIFA is an important funding source for food and ag research. Increasing the funding of this agency will increase the capacity to address food and agricultural issues in a variety of areas. The decrease to the buildings and facilities account is minimal.

62. Davis, Rodney (IL), Spanberger (VA), Budd (NC), Timmons (SC), DelBene (WA), Strickland (WA), Moore, Barry (AL), Bost (IL), Axne (IA), Plaskett (VI), Kuster (NH), Harshbarger (TN), Van Drew (NJ), Miller-Meeks (IA), Houlahan (PA), Cammack, Kat (FL), Slotkin (MI), Carl, Jerry (AL), Baird (IN), McClain (MI), Newhouse (WA), Wilson, Joe (SC), Gooden (TX), Stauber (MN), Aderholt (AL), Allen (GA), Tenney, Claudia (NY), Jacobs, Sara (CA), DeFazio (OR), Kind (WI), Rush (IL), Luria (VA), Hagedorn (MN), Hinson (IA), Hayes (CT), LaHood (IL), Schrier (WA), Craig (MN) - Broadband is essential to rural America and agriculture. By extending eligibility to speeds consistent with the 2018 Farm bill and current FCC minimal standards, internet speed which affects production, manufacturing, and forestry will be greatly improved. In addition, it will improve farmer's ability to connect to information and children's ability to do their home.

77. Spanberger (VA), LaMalfa (CA), Costa (CA), Hayes (CT), Kuster (NH) - An increase in funding for NRCS technical assistance programs will increase the capacity to help farmers, growers, ranchers, producers and landowners to learn and engage in climate-friendly farming practices.

78. Spanberger (VA), Johnson, Dusty (SD), Costa (CA) - Rural Development has a large number of loans, grants and programs in order to deliver the mission of improving the quality of life and economy in rural America. An increase in funding to increase the staff in this agency will only enhance the ability to deliver on this goal.

En Bloc #5 - Vote YES

179. Sherrill (NJ) - This amendment will provide additional funding to the U.S. Geological Survey to advance its surveys, investigations, and research of harmful algal blooms. These Toxic Blooms are a threat to lands, waters, and communities nationwide, persisting in the Greater Everglades ecosystem, appearing in the Great Lakes and in Western inland lakes and waterways.

En Bloc #6 - Vote YES

132. McGovern (MA), Schakowsky (IL), Panetta (CA), Kim (NJ), Torres, Norma (CA), Sablan (MP), Lee, Barbara (CA), Pingree (ME), Scanlon (PA), Radewagen (AS), Perlmutter (CO), Morelle (NY), DeSaulnier (CA), Ross (NC), Moore (WI), Raskin (MD), Hayes (CT), González- Colón, Jenniffer (PR), San Nicolas (GU), Plaskett (VI), Adams (NC), Neguse (CO), Bonamici (OR), Matsui (CA), Blumenauer (OR) - The public health and hunger crises we face demand attention from and coordination across stakeholders and federal agencies. Fifty two years after the White House convened a conference on Food, Nutrition, and Health, it's time for another one to build a comprehensive strategy to reimagine our food system.

211. Escobar (TX) - This amendment would increase funding for the Low-No Emission Bus grant account to ensure economically underserved communities benefit from the program.

212. Escobar (TX) - This amendment would increase funding for the Climate Resilience and Adaptation Competitive Grants account to ensure economically disadvantaged communities will benefit from this program.

We urge a NO vote on the following en blocs:

En Bloc #1 - Vote NO

154. Hern (OK) This amendment indiscriminately would cut funding by 20% for programs in the Interior-Environment division of the bill, with some exemptions.

En Bloc #4 - Vote NO

80. Tenney, Claudia (NY), LaMalfa (CA), Cloud (TX), Mace (SC), Davidson (OH), Cammack, Kat (FL), Hartzler (MO), Perry (PA) - By prohibiting the Climate Civilian Corps from receiving federal funds, the amendment would prevent the creation of thousands of good paying jobs in communities and in a clean economy.

85. Burgess (TX) - The Department of Energy should not be hamstrung in its efforts to increase energy efficiency and reduce lifetime electricity costs for consumers.

89. Cheney (WY) - There is no need for a Strategic Uranium Reserve (SUR) for national security or nuclear energy. An SUR is a taxpayer supported bailout for the uranium industry trying to mine lower-quality domestic uranium deposits. Communities and taxpayers should not continue to pay the health and financial costs of uranium extraction and processing. In December 2020, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report finding the former Administration's SUR FY21 Budget Request unjustified and unreasonable.

136. Perry (PA) - This amendment would strike funding for the much-needed transition of the federal vehicle fleet to zero-emission electric vehicles. Leading this transition to clean vehicles is an important role for the federal government.

137. Perry (PA) - This amendment would stop GSA from being able to purchase new electric vehicles. While electric vehicles may cost more up front, they have been proven to save fleet owners money over the life of the vehicle.

138. Pfluger (TX) - It is essential to cut emissions and fuel and maintenance costs from the over 228,000 delivery vehicles operated by the Postal Service. Locking in another 25 years of primarily fossil fuel delivery vehicles would be short sighted and fiscally disastrous.

141. Arrington (TX) - This amendment prohibits funds from being used to enforce or implement Executive Order 14008: "Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad." This EO includes a number of important directives to federal agencies to confront the climate crisis, protect public health and the environment, and promote environmental justice.

145. Budd (NC) - This amendment sees strike funding for environmental justice implementation and training grants by \$100 million dollars.

148. Duncan (SC) - This amendment would strike the language within the bill that currently bans FWS from using funds to grant import permits for sports hunted Lions, and Elephants from Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. FWS must ensure that any such trophy allowed into the United States has not negatively impacted the survival of that species.

150. Fallon (TX), Cammack, Kat (FL), Stauber (MN) - This amendment would strike any funding that would create a new program for Environmental Justice in addition to funding for associated implementation and training grants within the related agencies.

152. Gooden (TX) - This amendment would facilitate preleasing, leasing, and related activities within National Monuments, which goes against the goal and spirit of the protections National Monuments provide for lands, waters, oceans, and cultural resources

153. Graves, Garret (LA) - Currently, BSEE fails to make public any data pertaining to special exemptions under the guise of "proprietary information." This amendment would further erode BSEE's ability to ensure the public knows when and why waivers to the rules are being granted. Given the industry's documented deficient safety culture, making information related to departures readily transparent is vital to protecting human and environmental health and safety.

159. LaMalfa (CA) - This amendment would transfer 25 million from EPA enforcement. We should not be robbing Peter to pay Paul to work on conservation priorities.

161. McKinley (WV), Rouzer (NC), Cheney (WY), Lamborn (CO) - This amendment would restrict funds from being used to repeal, revise or replace the Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification Rule. This would prevent the EPA from changing a rule that unlawfully hamstring states and tribes from using Clean Water Act authority to protect waters from federally-permitted activities like hydro dams, pipelines, and wetland fills.

168. Newhouse (WA) - This amendment would strike the lessees' ability to seek approval to use either alternative procedures or alternative equipment in renewable or conventional energy operations on the OCS. If BOEM or BSEE require or approve alternative procedures/equipment, the agencies have to describe the alternative on their websites. The amendment would strike this transparency requirement.

171. Palmer (AL) - This amendment would prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency's Criminal Enforcement Division from being able to prosecute or hold criminally liable any entity that is in violation of environmental laws.

172. Palmer (AL) - This amendment seeks to zero out critical funding for grants under the Diesel Emission Reduction Act. DERA is a vital tool for reducing health-harming pollution by funding grants and rebates to reduce diesel emissions from trucks, buses and other equipment.

173. Pfluger (TX) - This amendment would Prohibit any of the funds made available by this Act from being used to implement, administer, or enforce the rule entitled "Oil and Natural Gas Sector: Emission Standards for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources."

185. Rosendale (MT), Newhouse (WA) - This amendment would weaken the ability of the public to enforce forest management laws, thereby harming protection of these public resources. The Equal Access to Justice Act, or "EAJA," was passed by Congress over 40 years ago to protect the public's rights against government wrongdoing by reimbursing fees and costs when plaintiffs successfully vindicate a right against the government in court, and any carve outs to protect the timber industry should be opposed. Moreover, this is a solution in search of a problem. It is often argued by allies of the timber industry in Congress that there is excessive litigation by public interest groups on Forest Service actions. However, as the FY20 federal report on EAJA fee awards reveals, only 6 of 15,596 EAJA total fee awards in fiscal year 2020 went to public interest groups litigating against the Department of Agriculture and the Forest Service.