**Trump Infrastructure Plan Would Gut Environmental Reviews, Rubber Stamp Permits for Corporate Polluters**

**WASHINGTON, DC** (February XX, 2018) – Today, President Trump introduced a multi-billion-dollar infrastructure plan that would have far-reaching and detrimental consequences on the environment and the health of our communities across the country.

*The organizations named above issued the following statement in response:*

“Written behind closed doors without stakeholder input, President Trump’s infrastructure plan would exempt thousands of infrastructure projects from or otherwise waive critical environmental laws including the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Clean Air Act, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and more than a dozen other protections.”

That shouldn’t just trouble Democrats – it should trouble everyone. Clean air, clean water and public accountability have no party.

For decades, Congress has starved state and local governments of badly need money to finance infrastructure upgrades, effectively stalling projects before they can even be started. Instead of addressing the trillion-dollar elephant in the room, President Trump and his corporate cronies have reverted to scapegoating environmental regulations. “Streamlining” and “permitting reform” are the latest buzzwords this administration is using in a blatant attempt to circumvent public accountability.

Taking climate change seriously also means making sure new and existing infrastructure will withstand the next big hurricane or flood. As written, the net result of this climate denying infrastructure bill will be the construction of roads and bridges without any regard to the impacts of rising seas or the increased frequency extreme weather events resulting from climate change.

Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria are emblematic of this imperative. Taxpayers have repeatedly built and rebuilt many of the building and roads destroyed by these disasters. To continue rebuilding over and over again without taking common-sense, proactive measures to account for climate change isn’t just short-sighted – it’s expensive and dangerous.

This infrastructure plan is also woefully negligent in failing to provide any meaningful funding for investment in our country’s aging water infrastructure. The water crisis in Flint, Michigan, which exposed over 100,000 residents to high levels of lead in their drinking water, tells a cautionary tale. Across the United States there are other cities and towns facing lead contamination and similar declines in water quality as they struggle to pay for much-needed maintenance on century-old pipes.

America badly needs an infrastructure upgrade, but rubberstamping permits for corporations to build oil pipelines and toxic waste dumps, gutting environmental reviews, and severely limiting the public’s ability to hold government accountable is too high a cost.”

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