

July 27, 2011

Hon. Lynne Woolsey; Hon. Barbara Boxer, Hon. Dianne Feinstein



Subject: Amendments to H.R. 2584 – Appropriations for the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

As you are fully aware, the House Republican leadership is making an unprecedented assault on the laws that are the foundation of our nation's environmental heritage, laws that are at the very core of our commitment to pass on to future generations a legacy of clean air and water, a healthy and productive land, and a rich diversity of wildlife, natural resources, and scenic beauty.

This week, as part of the Interior and Environment spending bill, House Republican leaders are pushing a series of amendments that include more than three dozen anti-environment policy measures. These measures have absolutely no place in a budget measure; they will not save the country a penny; and they are nothing more than giveaways to various special interests who will gain at the expense of the nation's environment and public.

While we recognize that some spending cuts are necessary to reduce our federal deficit, the cuts in this particular legislation would have a devastating impact on Americans' health and environment. Those cuts include budget reductions of 18 percent for the EPA and other measures that would threaten Americans' health and well-being by blocking limits on harmful air pollution, allow pollution to increase in sources of drinking water for 117 million Americans and threaten the iconic Grand Canyon with toxic pollution from uranium mining. And these are just a handful of the dangerous provisions included in this legislation!

The cuts also include a drastic 80 percent reduction in the Land and Water Conservation Fund and 21 percent reduction for the Fish and Wildlife Service, cuts that threaten the continued survival of animal and plant species whose very existence depends on protections under the Endangered Species Act, and would almost obliterate the ability of the nation to protect its great scenic and natural resources.

Fortunately, President Obama has threatened to veto this harmful legislation, noting that a number of the measures in the bill are "ideological and political provisions that are beyond the scope of funding legislation." However, we cannot afford to let House Republican leaders push this legislation without exposing their extreme anti-environment efforts.

Thank you,

Susan Stompe
President

Letter submitted via the senators' online comment forms

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