



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

June 25, 2007

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: H.R. 2643, the FY 2008 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill

Dear Representative:

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) is the independent political voice for the environment. Each year, LCV publishes the *National Environmental Scorecard*, which details the voting records of members of Congress on environmental legislation. The *Scorecard* is distributed to LCV members, concerned voters nationwide, and the press.

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We urge you to support H.R. 2643, the FY 2008 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. During the last several years, many important public health and environmental programs within the Department of Interior and the Environmental Protection Agency have suffered significant funding cuts; H.R. 2643 begins to restore those cuts.

This year's legislation increases funding for the Environmental Protection Agency by \$900 million, providing much-needed funds for programs ranging from clean water infrastructure to scientific research. The legislation also makes crucial investments in public lands, providing more than \$450 million for the National Wildlife Refuge System and \$2.5 billion for the National Park Service. In addition, this bill establishes a scientific commission to help address the challenge of global warming.

In addition to voting for final passage of H.R. 2643, we urge you to support the following pro-environment amendments:

- **The Andrews (D-NJ)-Chabot (R-OH) Amendment to End Taxpayer Subsidies of Logging Roads in the Tongass National Forest.** Taxpayer-subsidized logging in the Tongass has cost taxpayers more than one billion dollars since 1982. In fact, the Forest Service loses about \$40 million of taxpayer money on this program in the Tongass each year. This amendment, which passed the House in 2004 and 2006, prevents the Forest Service from spending taxpayer dollars on logging roads in America's Rainforest.
- **The Salazar (D-CO)-Udall (D-CO) Amendment to Protect Colorado's Roan Plateau from Oil and Gas Drilling.** This spectacular landscape, which provides important habitat for many wildlife and plant species, is targeted for oil and gas leasing. The amendment prohibits the use of funds for oil and gas leasing and ensures the preservation of the Plateau's unique character and natural resources.
- **The Udall (D-CO) Oil Shale Amendment to Protect the Intermountain West and Require Careful Study of Commercial Oil Shale Development.** This amendment prohibits the Department of Interior from expediting commercial oil shale leasing throughout the Intermountain West. The amendment ensures a more measured approach that affords the time and research to fully assess the impacts of oil shale development on air, water, and wildlife.
- **The Udall (D-CO) Amendment to Stop the Department of Interior's Public Lands Giveaway.** This amendment prohibits the Department of Interior from expending funds to exploit a loophole in a repealed 1866 mining law known as R.S. 2477, which allowed highway construction over public lands. This amendment will protect national parks, wildlife

refuges, and other special places and prevent them from being unnecessarily given away for road development.

- **The Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) Amendment to Prevent the Environmental Protection Agency from Allowing an Increase in Toxic Air Pollution.** This amendment prohibits the Environmental Protection Agency from expending funds on a proposed rulemaking to weaken the Clean Air Act rules covering toxic air pollution from industrial facilities.

We also urge you to oppose the following anti-environmental riders and any other harmful amendments that may be offered to H.R. 2643:

- **The Peterson (R-PA) Amendment to End the Moratorium on Drilling in the Outer Continental Shelf.** This amendment threatens pristine coastlines that have been protected with broad, bipartisan support for more than twenty-five years. Instead of despoiling our shores and perpetuating our dependence on oil, Congress should pursue faster, cheaper, and more environmentally friendly solutions to our energy problems, including increasing fuel efficiency and our use of clean, renewable energy such as wind and solar power.
- **The Pearce (R-NM) Amendments to Derail the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program in Arizona and New Mexico.** One amendment completely ends funding for the Mexican wolf recovery program, and a second amendment prohibits the use of funds for any additional wolf reintroductions or expansion of territory. These amendments will prevent the Mexican wolf from recovering and being removed from the endangered species list.

LCV urges you to protect the environment and public health by voting YES on the pro-environment amendments listed above and YES on final passage of H.R. 2643, the FY 2008 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. We also urge you to oppose the anti-environmental amendments listed above as well as any other harmful provisions that may be offered to this bill. LCV has scored numerous votes on these issues in the past few years, and we will strongly consider including these votes in the 2007 *Scorecard*. If you need more information, please call Tiernan Sittenfeld in my office at (202) 785-8683.

Sincerely,



Gene Karpinski
President