

**American Rivers * Audubon * Center for Biological Diversity * Clean Water Action
Defenders of Wildlife * Endangered Species Coalition * Earthjustice * Friends of the Earth
Green For All * League of Conservation Voters * Natural Resources Defense Council
Physicians for Social Responsibility * Sierra Club * The Wilderness Society
Union of Concerned Scientists**

July 9, 2013

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our millions of members, we write to express our opposition to the FY2014 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. Instead of providing funding to maintain America's leadership in clean energy, this year's bill cuts renewable energy funding in half, while maintaining high levels of funding for the mature fossil and nuclear energy sectors. Furthermore, this bill contains policy riders that seek to undermine American's supply of clean water through a legislative backdoor. Instead of choosing the dirty energy of the past, Congress should be investing in the benefits provided by clean energy technologies. We urge you to either reverse the clean energy funding cuts and remove the policy riders on water policy, or to vote against this bill. We also urge you to oppose any and all amendments that would harm health and the environment.

Every year, fossil fuel pollution causes billions of dollars in health costs from cancer, heart attacks, and asthma and the increasing amount of carbon pollution has led to extreme weather events costing billions more to both the government and citizens. One of the most prudent ways to address these costs and improve the health and environment of our citizens is to research, develop and deploy clean energy solutions.

Clean energy is creating thousands of jobs in states around the nation, while helping to clean up our air and water. A potent combination of government policies, private sector investment and American ingenuity and hard work is building a vibrant solar energy sector in North Carolina, a strong wind energy industry in Kansas, and advanced electric vehicles out of California. Meanwhile, energy efficiency is improving the productivity of our manufacturing sector and reducing the price consumers pay for power and gas.

Rather than continuing to invest in these successful clean energy technologies, this bill instead embraces the pollute and pay approach of the past by further subsidizing the mature fossil fuels and nuclear energy sectors and cutting funds for the clean, renewable and energy efficient technologies that are our future.

The bill cuts nearly a billion dollars, a 50 percent reduction, from renewable energy projects and research at the Department of Energy, including cutting funding for the popular ARPA-E research agency by 81 percent and reducing funds for the Office of Science, which provides much of the funding for the critical basic research that drives our innovation economy, by \$220 million.

The bill also includes two very damaging policy riders, Sec. 107 and Sec. 112, that undermine the Clean Water Act. These riders would freeze in place outdated definitions of fill material and what constitutes waters of the United States. Removing the flexibility to update these definitions will have real impacts on streams and wetlands that supply drinking water and prevent flooding.

This bill has the opportunity to build a path toward cleaner and healthier energy and water use policies for all Americans, but as currently written it puts America's public health, environment, and energy future at risk. We strongly oppose the bill as written and once again urge the House to instead pass a bill that invests the clean energy technologies of tomorrow, decreases our dependence on pollution causing fossil fuels and safeguards America's waters. We also urge opposition to any amendment that would harm health and the environment.

Sincerely,

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