

March 31, 2011

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
United States Capitol S-321
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
United States Capitol S-230
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

The undersigned organizations, on behalf of our millions of members and supporters, write today to express our strong opposition to inclusion of any policy riders in legislation that will fund government operations for Fiscal Year 2011.

There have not been any hearings related to these extraordinarily far-reaching proposals. This back-door means of legislating does not allow for adequate debate about the merits of such sweeping policy changes, which deserve full deliberation by both chambers in the course of the normal legislative process.

The House of Representatives' Continuing Resolution (H.R. 1), which was voted on one month ago, included vast cuts and erected obstructions to critical public health, worker safety, consumer, civil rights, and environmental programs. We urge you to adopt a strict policy of rejecting all such provisions in subsequent 2011 spending bills, rather than negotiating one harmful rider against another.

We also have deep concerns about the level of the funding cuts, which we view as irresponsible and harmful. However, these damaging policy riders have no place in this budget legislation.

Sincerely,

350.org
9to5, National Association of Working Women
Advocates for Youth
AFL-CIO
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
AIDS Project Los Angeles

AIDS United
Air Alliance Houston
Alaska Community Action on Toxics
Alaska Wilderness League
Alliance for Justice
Alliance to End Hunger

American Association of University Professors
American Association of University Women
(AAUW)
American Bottom Conservancy
American Civil Liberties Union
The American Federation of State, County, and
Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American Humane Association
American Medical Women's Association
American Public Health Association
American Rivers
Americans for UNFPA
The Arc of the United States
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health
Forum
Association of Farmworker Opportunity
Programs
ATTIC, Inc.
BCMw Community Services
B.E. Cause
Blue Green Alliance
Bread for the World
Break the Cycle
Cascade AIDS Project
Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation, Inc.
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Family Policy and Practice
Center for Food Safety
Center for Health and Gender Equity
Center for Independent Living of South Florida,
Inc.
Center for Reproductive Rights
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Center for Women Policy Studies
Children's Dental Health Project
Citizens Against Coal Ash
Citizens Against Ruining the Environment
(CARE)
Citizens' Environmental Coalition
Clean New York
Clean Water Action
Coalition on Human Needs
Coalition for Justice

ColorOfChange.org
Common Cause
Community Advocates for Safe Emissions, Inc.
(CASE)
Community Food Security Coalition
Communications Workers of America
Concerned Citizens of Giles County LLC
Concerned Residents of Portland, NY + People
Like Us (Crop Plus)
Connecticut Association for Community Action
(CAFCA)
Courage Campaign
DC Vote
Defenders of Wildlife
Democracy 21
Disciples Justice Action Network
Downwinders at Risk
Earthjustice
Earthworks
Economic Policy Institute
Environment America
Environmental Integrity Project
EQUAL Health Network
Every Child Matters
Falls Church Housing Corporation
Families USA
First State Community Action Agency
Fresh Energy
Friends of Hudson
Friends of the Earth
Georgians for Smart Energy Coalition
Global Community Monitor
Greenpeace
Harm Reduction Coalition
Health Care Without Harm
HealthHIV
HIV Prevention Justice Alliance
Human Rights Campaign
Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition
Immigrant Service Providers Group/Health
Somerville, MA
International Center for Technology Assessment

International Union, United Automobile,
Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers
of America (UAW)
Ipas
Kentucky Environmental Foundation
League of Conservation Voters
League of Women Voters
Legal Momentum
Medical Students for Choice
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
Montanans Against Toxic Burning
Mountain Watershed Association
National Abortion Federation
National Association for the Advancement of
Colored People (NAACP)
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in
Women's Health
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council for Occupational Safety and
Health
National Employment Law Project
National Health Law Program
National Latina Institute for Reproductive
Health
National Minority AIDS Council
National Organization for Women
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
National Network of Abortion Funds
National Senior Citizens Law Center
National WIC Association
National Women's Conference Committee
National Women's Law Center
Natural Resource Defense Council
North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light
Northern California INALLIANCE
Ocean Conservancy
OMB Watch

Our Bodies Ourselves
The Partnership for Working Families
People For the American Way
Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health
Population Action International
ProgressNow
Public Citizen
Raising Women's Voices for the Health Care
We Need
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
Religious Institute
Rural Advancement Foundation International –
USA (RAFI – USA)
The Salvation Army Thrift Store and Service
Center
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Save the Dunes
Save Our Rivers
Service Employees International Union
Sexuality Information and Education Council of
the U.S. (SIECUS)
Sierra Club
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Institute
Justice Team
Southern Illinois Continuum of Care Network
Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social
Justice
Trust Women/Silver Ribbon Campaign
Union of Concerned Scientists
United Cerebral Palsy
United for a Fair Economy
Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS Prevention
Services (UCHAPS)
Virginia Poverty Law Center
Voices for America's Children
Voices for Illinois Children
Wabash Area Development, Inc.
World Wildlife Fund
YWCA USA
ZERO TO THREE

