

Dear Representative,

The undersigned 129 public interest groups urge you to oppose H.R. 2279, the Reducing Excessive Deadline Obligations Act of 2013, a package of three bills that threaten human health and the environment while protecting polluters from liability for the costs of toxic cleanups. The bill amends the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and Superfund (the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)) in a manner that substantially increases the potential for harm in communities across the United States. As one in four Americans live within three miles of a hazardous waste site, safe management and prompt cleanup of toxic waste sites are essential to our nation's health and economy. Because the majority of hazardous waste sites disproportionately harm communities of color and low income communities, Congress should afford great attention to protecting our nation's most vulnerable communities.

The three bills that comprise H.R. 2279 weaken the nation's hazardous waste laws and place American communities at increased risk of toxic exposure and financial liability in the following ways.

Title I- Reducing Excessive Deadline Obligations Act of 2013 (H.R. 2279)

Title I will:

- Eliminate the requirement for EPA to ensure in a timely fashion that its hazardous waste regulations are current, relevant and effective to protect human health and the environment. The bill removes a requirement for periodic review of regulations under RCRA, making the timing of review wholly discretionary.
- Eviscerate the longstanding principle of the Superfund law that polluters must pay for cleanup of hazardous waste releases by allowing insufficient existing requirements to block Superfund obligations, thereby leaving communities unprotected and taxpayers at risk of funding expensive cleanups.
- Fail to ensure full liability for toxic waste cleanup, thus endangering the health of communities, causing significant delays in remediation, and placing a great burden on taxpayers to cover the shortfall, which is often substantial, particularly at hardrock mine sites and large chemical facilities.
- Place burdensome and unnecessary roadblocks to delay establishment of financial assurance requirements to ensure polluters have bonds or other insurance in place to cover the nation's most costly and high risk Superfund cleanups.

Title II- The Federal and State Partnership for Environmental Protection Act of 2013 (H.R. 2226):

Title II will:

- Cause delays in emergency Superfund cleanups by requiring unnecessary consultation prior to initiating urgent, time-sensitive removal actions.
- Allow states to reduce their cost share for cleanup, thereby decreasing the funds available for additional cleanup efforts.
- Establish roadblocks to listing new toxic waste sites on the National Priority List (NPL) by giving states the power to veto such listings. The NPL is the list of the most dangerous toxic waste sites in the nation, and the listing of a site is often a prerequisite to its cleanup.

Title III- Federal Facility Accountability Act of 2013 (H.R.2318)

Title III will:

- Potentially increase costs and delay cleanups at hazardous waste sites owned by federal facilities, some of the largest and most dangerous Superfund sites in the nation.

In summary, we oppose amendments to RCRA and CERCLA contained in H.R.2279 because these three bills place the health of our communities and our environment in great danger and increase the cost of hazardous waste cleanup for U.S. taxpayers.

Respectfully,

Alaska Community Action on Toxics
American Bird Conservancy
Amigos Bravos
Appalachian Voices
Asheville 350
Athens County Fracking Action Network
B.E. Cause (Bokoshe Environmental Cause Group)
Barron Park Association Foundation
Bastrop County Environmental Network
Biofuelwatch
Cahaba Riverkeeper
Center for a Sustainable Coast
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Effective Government
Center for Health, Environment & Justice (CHEJ)
Center for sustainable coast
Citizens Against Ruining the Environment
Citizens Against Titan
Citizens Coal Council
Citizens for a Clean Pompton Lakes
Citizens for Responsible Resource Management
Citizens' Alliance for Responsible Energy
Citizens' Environmental Coalition
Citizens' Environmental Coalition
Clean Water Action
Cleanuprocketdyne.org
Comite Contra la Incineracion en Arecibo, Puerto Rico
Comite Dialogo Ambiental, Inc.
Community Research
Concerned Citizens for Mills Gap Cleanup
Concerned Citizens of Ohio/Randolph
Concerned Citizens of Ohio/Portage County
Concerned Citizens of Ohio/Franklin Township
Concerned Citizens of Ohio/Lake Township
Concerned Citizens of Ohio/Paris
Concerned Citizens Ohio/Hiram
Concerned Citizens Ohio/Kent
Concerned Citizens Ohio/Shalersville
Concerned Residents of East Fishkill – NY
Concerned Residents of Portland, NY + People Like Us {Crop Plus)
Cornett Environmental Consulting
Dogwood Alliance
Earth Circle

Earth Ethics/Ethical Society St. Louis – Missouri
Earthjustice
Earthworks
Eatontown Environmental Commission
Eco-Cycle
Edison Wetlands Association
Energy Justice Network
Environment America
Environmental Defense Action Fund
Environmental Health Trust
Environmental Integrity Project (EIP)
Fall-Line Alliance for Clean Energy (FACE)
Food & Water Watch
Frackfree Mahoning Valley
Gila Resources Information Project
Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA)
Global Justice Ecology Project
Great Basin Resource Watch
Green Delaware
Green Door Initiative
Green Environmental Coalition
Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice
Greenpeace
Guardians of Mill Creek Park
HEAL Utah - The Healthy Environment Alliance of Utah
Health Care Without Harm
Healthy Schools Network
Healthy Schools Network
Idaho Conservation League
Institute of Neurotoxicology & Neurological Disorders
Ironbound Community Corporation
Ithaca South Hill Industrial Pollution
Just Transition Alliance
Ka Wai Ola O Waianae – Hawaii
KeepNilesSafe – Ohio
Kentuckians for the Commonwealth
Kentucky Environmental Foundation
Labadie Environmental Organization (LEO)
Labor Network for Sustainability
League of Conservation Voters
Market Air Quality Campaign
Midwest Coalition for Responsible Investment
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
Moapa Band of Paiutes – Nevada
Montana Environmental Information Center
Montanans Against Toxic Burning
Mountain Watershed Association
NAACP
National Committee for the New River
Natural Resources Defense Council

New Mexico Environmental Law Center
New Mexico Sportsmen
New Jersey Friends of Clearwater
Northern Plains Resource Council
Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance
Nuclear Watch New Mexico
Ohio Citizen Action
Old Bedford Village Development Inc.
Partnership for Policy Integrity
Peach Bottom Concerned Citizens Group
People for Safe Water
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Physicians for Social Responsibility – Florida Chapter
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada
Protect Arkansas Wildlife
Radioactivewastealert.org
Rhode Island State Nurses Association
Rosebud Protective Association
San Juan Citizens Alliance
Sierra Club
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
Southern Environmental Law Center
Stafford Citizens for Open Government
Stand Up/Save Lives Campaign
Sierra Club – Tennessee Chapter
Texas Campaign for the Environment
Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (TEJAS)
The Ruckus Society
Transition Asheville
Voluntary Cleanup Advisory Board
WE ACT for Environmental Justice
West End Revitalization Association
Western North Carolina Alliance
Western Organization of Resource Councils
Working on Waste – New Hampshire
World Temperate Rainforest Network