

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  
Advocates for Youth  
AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
AIDS Project Los Angeles  
AIDS United  
Air Alliance Houston

Alaska Community Action on Toxics  
Alaska Wilderness League  
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  
 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 Reproductive Rights  
 Center for Women Policy Studies  
 Children's Dental Health Project  
 Citizens Against Coal Ash  
 Citizens' Environmental Coalition  
 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 the Earth  
 Georgians for Smart Energy Coalition  
 Global Community Monitor  
 Greenpeace  
 Harm Reduction Coalition  
 Health Care Without Harm  
 HealthHIV  
 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  
 Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy  
 Montanans Against Toxic Burning  
 National Abortion Federation  
 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 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  
United Cerebral Palsy  
United for a Fair Economy  
Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS Prevention Services (UCHAPS)  
Virginia Poverty Law Center  
Voices for Illinois Children  
Wabash Area Development, Inc.  
World Wildlife Fund  
YWCA USA  
ZERO TO THREE