

November 30, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Capitol S-146A
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Capitol H-307
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Capitol S-128
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Leahy, Vice Chairman Shelby, Chairwoman DeLauro, and Ranking Member Granger:

On behalf of our tens of millions of members and supporters across the country, we respectfully request that you support significantly increased funding for environmental agencies and programs in the FY23 omnibus. We also ask that you reject any anti-environmental policy riders, including those carried forward from prior funding bills.

We support the FY23 bills that the House approved this summer, and similarly appreciate many of the funding increases in the draft Senate bills as well as the omission of harmful riders. In the omnibus, it is particularly important that Congress meets the House allocation of \$44.8 billion for Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies. While multiple subcommittees provide for critical environmental work, an inadequate allocation for the Interior bill would uniquely hamper the nation's efforts to promote environmental justice and protect our health, lands, wildlife, air, water, oceans, and climate.

Also of critical importance is the need to reject harmful anti-environmental policy riders. These damaging provisions have no place in the appropriations process and over the years have contributed to significant and avoidable environmental degradation. We urge you to keep anti-environmental provisions out of the FY23 omnibus, whether they are new this year or carried forward from previous appropriations bills.

Funding in FY23 must go further than merely keeping pace with inflation, providing for current services, and restoring lost capacity. The Interior bill received a 4.6% increase last year following a decade of insufficient funding imposed by the draconian spending caps of the Budget Control Act. That increase was less than the rate of inflation and below the average increase of 6.7% across all nondefense discretionary spending in FY22. It translated to little-to-no practical increase for many critical environmental programs. Funding these crucial programs will create

good-paying union jobs and revitalize our communities while reducing harmful pollution, promoting environmental justice, and protecting public lands, oceans, and wildlife.

Under your leadership, Congress has an historic opportunity to make a genuine difference in the lives of the public by securing a more just and prosperous future for all and protecting the health of our planet.

We again urge you to pass an omnibus spending bill this December with a robust allocation to the Interior and Environment subcommittee well above inflation. We also urge you to refrain from including anti-environmental policy riders.

We thank you for your consideration of our views and stand ready to support you in meeting this request.

Sincerely,

350.org	Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition
Alaska Wilderness League	Hip Hop Caucus
American Bird Conservancy	Hispanic Access Foundation
American Hiking Society	Hispanic Federation
American Rivers	Impact Fund
American Society of Landscape Architects	Interfaith Power & Light
Appalachian Trail Conservancy	International Inbound Travel Association
Change the Chamber	Kids for Saving Earth
Chesapeake Climate Action Network	Lassen Forest Preservation Group
Clean Water Action	League of Conservation Voters
Coalition to Protect America's National Parks	Los Padres ForestWatch
Conservation Lands Foundation	Michigan Sustainable Business Forum
Continental Divide Trail Coalition	National Audubon Society
Defenders of Wildlife	National Ocean Protection Coalition
Earthjustice	National Parks Conservation Association
Earthworks	National Wildlife Federation
Elevate	National Wildlife Refuge Association
Endangered Species Coalition	Natural Resources Defense Council
Environmental Defense Fund	New Progressive Alliance
Environmental Law & Policy Center	Ocean Conservancy
Environmental Protection Network	Ocean Defense Initiative
Environmental Working Group	Oceana
Evergreen Action	Pacific Crest Trail Association
Friends of Acadia	Pacific Environment
Friends of Dyke Marsh	Partnership for Policy Integrity
Friends of the Earth	Partnership for the National Trails System
Friends of the Inyo	Rachel Carson Council
GreenLatinos	Shenandoah National Park Trust
	Sierra Club

Sierra Foothills Audubon Society
Sierra Forest Legacy
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
The CLEO Institute
The Wilderness Society

Union of Concerned Scientists
Voices for Progress
Waterway Advocates
Western Watersheds Project
WildEarth Guardians

Cc: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi
Senate Democratic Leader Charles E. Schumer
Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell
House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy
Senate Interior Subcommittee Chairman Jeffrey A. Merkley
House Interior Subcommittee Chairwoman Chellie Pingree
Senate Interior Subcommittee Ranking Member Lisa Murkowski
House Interior Subcommittee Ranking Member David P. Joyce