

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 31, 2011

The Honorable John A. Boehner  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner,

As Democratic Members of Congress who voted for a recent, clean Continuing Resolution (CR) to continue funding for the government, and who would like to avoid a shutdown of essential government operations, we write to strongly urge you not to include anti-environmental policy “riders” in the long-term CR for Fiscal Year 2011 (FY11).

The appropriations process and the authorizing process are two important, but distinct, congressional responsibilities. We feel strongly that these policy provisions, which would significantly jeopardize the protection of American communities and ecosystems, should not be included in a bipartisan budget bill.

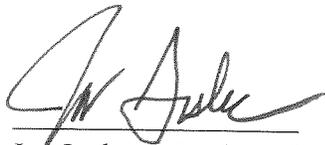
H.R. 1, which was passed by the House of Representatives in February 2011, contained 19 anti-environmental riders that would negatively affect air, water, and environmental quality, through a wide range of provisions, including preventing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from proposing, implementing or enforcing any regulations on stationary sources of greenhouse gas emissions, limiting toxic emissions, preventing the EPA from restoring certain waterways, and preventing the Administration from protecting wilderness areas and certain endangered species. These anti-environmental riders would roll back 40 years of bipartisan efforts to strengthen environmental protections. As you know, the U.S. Senate refused to consider this legislation.

The two recent short-term CR’s that were passed into law did not include these policy riders. The most recent of these measures passed the House on March 15 and the Senate on March 17, and will keep the government funded until April 8. Fifty-four House Republicans voted against this short-term CR, and we were among the House Democrats that voted for one or both of these measures, which also passed the Democratically-controlled Senate. We believe that the next, long-term CR will need to attract similar bipartisan support.

The push amongst some in the Republican Conference to include anti-environmental riders in a long-term CR is greatly concerning. While these riders do not reduce federal spending, they would precipitously alter 40 years of environmental statute. A budget bill is not the appropriate venue to make significant policy changes without going through the proper hearing and markup process in committees of authorization. We would like to work with you to

find common ground on a CR to fund the government for the remainder of FY11, but we would have very strong reservations about supporting a long-term CR that limits the Administration's authority to protect air, water, and environmental quality, and its Supreme Court-mandated duty to protect public health.

Sincerely,



Jay Inslee, Member of Congress  
Co-Chair, Sustainable Energy &  
Environment Coalition



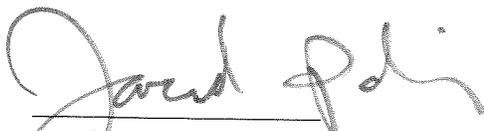
Steve Israel, Member of Congress  
Co-Chair, Sustainable Energy &  
Environment Coalition



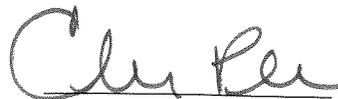
Rush Holt, Member of Congress  
Vice Chair, Sustainable Energy &  
Environment Coalition



Gerry Connolly, Member of Congress  
Vice Chair, Sustainable Energy &  
Environment Coalition



Jared Polis, Member of Congress  
Vice Chair, Sustainable Energy &  
Environment Coalition



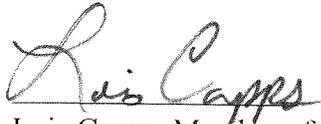
Chellie Pingree, Member of Congress  
Vice Chair, Sustainable Energy &  
Environment Coalition



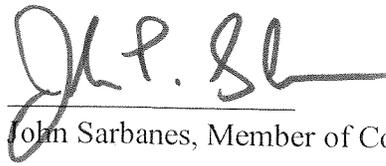
Chris Van Hollen, Member of Congress



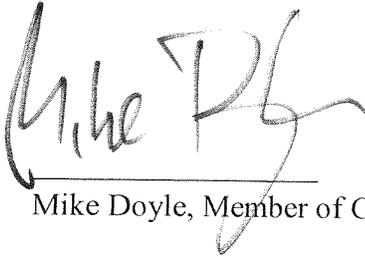
Jim Moran, Member of Congress



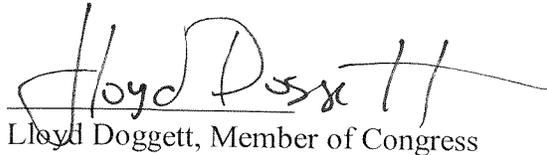
Lois Capps, Member of Congress



John Sarbanes, Member of Congress



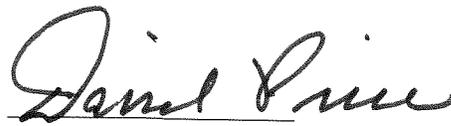
Mike Doyle, Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett, Member of Congress



Eliot Engel, Member of Congress



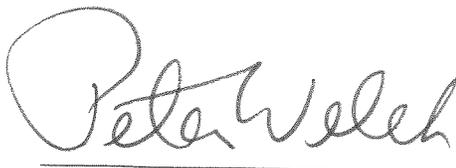
David Price, Member of Congress



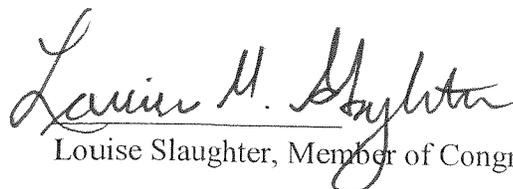
Martin Heinrich, Member of Congress



Diana DeGette, Member of Congress



Peter Welch, Member of Congress



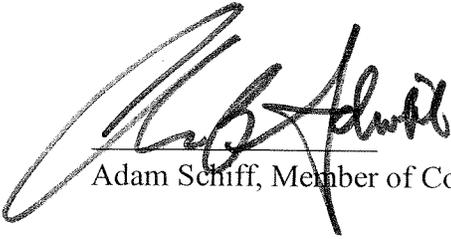
Louise Slaughter, Member of Congress



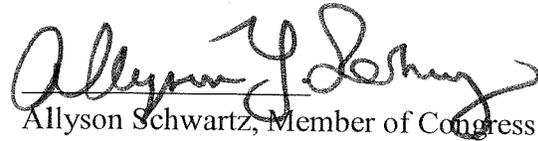
Jackie Speier, Member of Congress



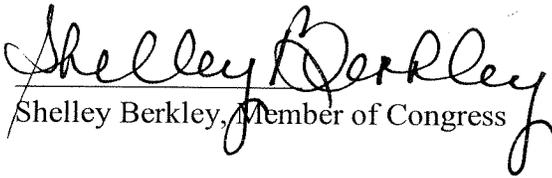
Mike Quigley, Member of Congress



Adam Schiff, Member of Congress



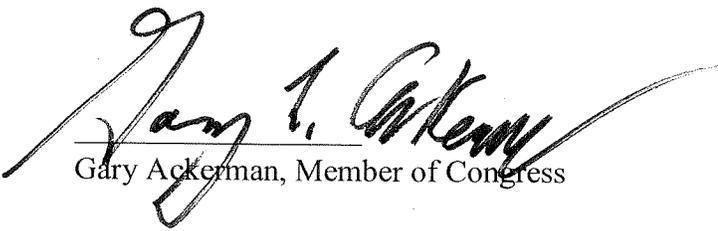
Allyson Schwartz, Member of Congress



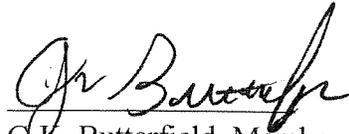
Shelley Berkley, Member of Congress



Fortney Pete Stark, Member of Congress



Gary Ackerman, Member of Congress



G.K. Butterfield, Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Member of Congress



Jim Langevin, Member of Congress



Steven Rothman, Member of Congress



Theodore Deutch, Member of Congress



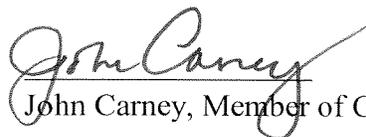
Andre Carson, Member of Congress



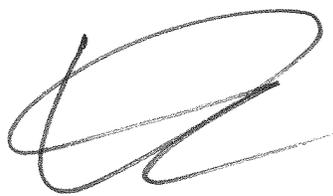
Kurt Schrader, Member of Congress



Brad Sherman, Member of Congress



John Carney, Member of Congress



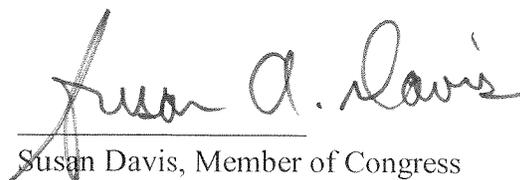
David Wu, Member of Congress



David Cicilline, Member of Congress



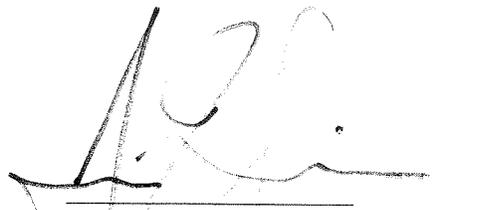
Anna Eshoo, Member of Congress



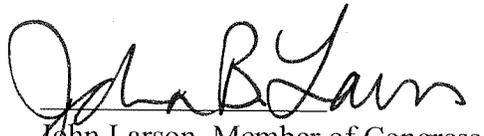
Susan Davis, Member of Congress



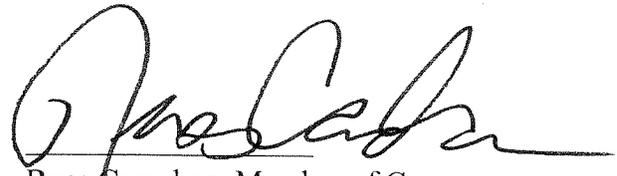
Ed Perlmutter , Member of Congress



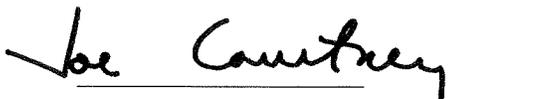
Jim Himes, Member of Congress



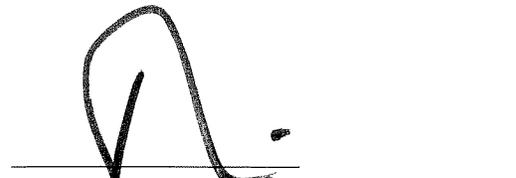
John Larson, Member of Congress



Russ Carnahan, Member of Congress



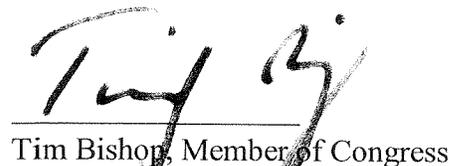
Joe Courtney, Member of Congress



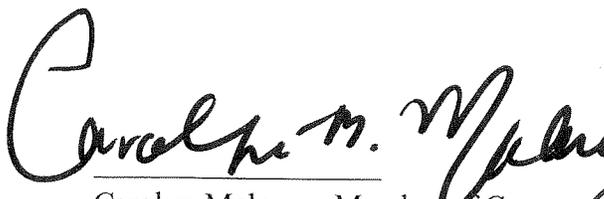
Anthony Weiner, Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio, Member of Congress



Tim Bishop, Member of Congress



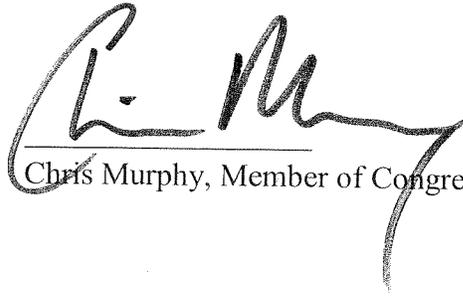
Carolyn Maloney, Member of Congress



Brian Higgins, Member of Congress



Ben Ray Luján, Member of Congress



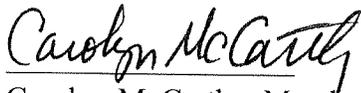
Chris Murphy, Member of Congress



Mike Thompson, Member of Congress



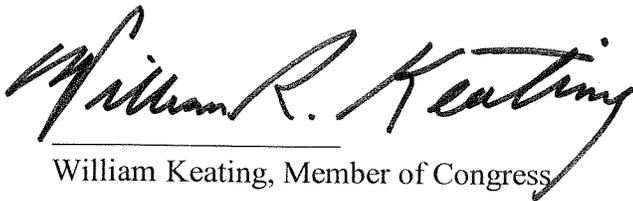
Niki Tsongas, Member of Congress



Carolyn McCarthy, Member of Congress



Gary Peters, Member of Congress



William Keating, Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader, House of Representatives