February 14, 2011

Dear Members of Congress,
On behalf of our citizen members and activists, we urge you to help protect our families' health and the environment by opposing the continuing resolution (H.R. 1) proposed by the House Republican leadership. To be clear, the proposed continuing resolution amounts to the biggest and most dangerous assault on the air we breathe and the water we drink in recent memory.

Specifically, the proposed continuing resolution would:

- Threaten the health of our children, elderly citizens and other vulnerable populations by blocking EPA from enforcing the Clean Air Act and cleaning up coal-fired power plants and other large sources of carbon dioxide pollution. The EPA estimates that clean air regulations saved over 160,000 lives in 2010 alone. This success should be built upon—not torn down.
- Threaten drinking water supplies for over 117 million people and endanger thousands of streams and wetlands across the country by attempting to block EPA's ability to restore Clean Water Act protections for these waterways.
- Implement the largest percentage cut in EPA's overall budget in 30 years, severely threatening the Agency's ability to ensure that all Americans have clean air to breathe and clean water to drink.
- Waste energy and homeowners' money by slashing funding for home weatherization assistance. Weatherizing homes is one of the cheapest and easiest ways to save Americans money, cut energy use and reduce dangerous pollution.
- Carry out an unprecedented assault on wildlife by eliminating Endangered Species Act protections for wolves in Idaho, Montana, and parts of Washington, Oregon and Utah; and by blocking the implementation of scientifically-sound measures intended to prevent the complete collapse of the San Francisco Bay-Delta ecosystem on which both fish and fishermen depend.
- Threaten commonsense protections for our wildest places and slash funding for parks. Cuts to the Department of the Interior would limit resources for environmental education programs for youth, park maintenance and public safety in an array of beloved national parks and wildlife refuges across the country.
- Thwart international efforts to tackle the causes and effects of climate change by slashing international funding pledged by the United States to tackle this problem. This will exacerbate global instability, threaten common sense investments that improve global human security and thwart the creation of critical markets worldwide for clean technology.

Given these and other attacks on our public health and environment within the proposed continuing resolution, defeating this continuing resolution will be a top priority for our organizations in the coming days and weeks. We urge you to join us in opposing this dangerous attack on our families' health and our environment. We also urge you to oppose any further cuts or funding limitations that may be offered on the floor that threaten our public health, air, water, wildlife and wild lands.

Sincerely,

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Kieran Suckling
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