

May 17, 2022

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders Schumer, McConnell, and McCarthy:

On behalf of our tens of millions of members and supporters, we respectfully request your support to significantly increase funding for environmental agencies and programs in Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23). Specifically, we ask that you support a 302(a) allocation that meets or exceeds the \$650 billion in non-defense discretionary spending (excluding Veterans Affairs Medical Care) included in President Biden's budget request. We also ask that you support a 302(b) allocation for the Interior-Environment Subcommittee that meets or exceeds the President's budget, which would require a minimum estimated level of \$50 billion (pending official score from the Congressional Budget Office). Finally, we ask that you oppose anti-environmental policy riders—including those carried forward from prior funding bills—which have no place in the appropriations process. Your leadership is necessary to rebuild and equip these crucial agencies and programs that promote environmental justice and protect our health, lands, wildlife, air, water, oceans, and climate.

Funding in FY23 must go further than merely keeping pace with inflation, providing for current services, and restoring lost capacity. The climate and biodiversity crises demand an all-hands-on-deck approach. Yet, environmental agencies and programs still suffer from a decade of insufficient funding imposed by the draconian spending caps of the Budget Control Act. This funding is not only necessary, but can also create good-paying American jobs and revitalize our communities while reducing harmful pollution, promoting environmental justice, and protecting public lands, oceans, and wildlife.

Under your leadership, Congress has a historic opportunity to make a genuine difference in the lives of the public by securing a more just and prosperous future for all. We stand ready to support you in meeting this request.

Sincerely,

Alaska Wilderness League
American Bird Conservancy
American Hiking Society
American Lung Association
American Rivers
Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Brown People Camping
Chesapeake Legal Alliance
Clean Water Action
Conservation Lands Foundation
Defend Our Future
Defenders of Wildlife
Earthjustice
Elevate
Endangered Species Coalition
Environmental Law & Policy Center
Environmental Protection Network
Environmental Working Group
Evergreen Action
FOUR PAWS USA
Freshwater Future
Friends of the Earth U.S.
Greenpeace USA
Health Care Without Harm
Hispanic Access Foundation
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC
Interfaith Power and Light
Just Transition NWI

Kids for Saving Earth
Lawyers for Good Government (LAGG)
League of Conservation Voters
League of Women Voters Pennsylvania
Los Padres ForestWatch
National Audubon Society
National Ocean Protection Coalition
National Parks Conservation Association
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness
Ocean Conservancy
Partnership for the National Trails System
Physicians for Social Responsibility
 Pennsylvania
Shedd Aquarium
Sierra Club
Sierra Forest Legacy
Southern Environmental Law Center
The Mountaineers
The Wilderness Society
Trust for Public Land
Union of Concerned Scientists
Voices for Progress
Waterway Advocates
West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
Western Watersheds Project
Winter Wildlands Alliance

Cc:

Chair Bernard Sanders
Ranking Member Lindsey Graham
Chair John Yarmuth
Ranking Member Jason Smith
Chair Patrick Leahy
Vice Chair Richard Shelby
Chair Rosa L. DeLauro
Ranking Member Kay Granger