

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 18, 2017

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Vice Chairman  
S-146, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cochran and Vice Chairman Leahy:

We understand that you are working to formulate multiple pieces of short-term or long-term legislation to fund the federal government. As you consider Fiscal Year 2018 appropriations bills or a continuing resolution, we urge you to oppose any riders that would eviscerate the United States' foundational environmental laws.

Unfortunately, many of the appropriations bills approved this year have included deeply divisive environmental policy riders that have no place in must-pass legislation and that complicate the bipartisan cooperation necessary to pass such legislation. To avoid these harmful outcomes, we write to you to express our strong opposition to any riders that would gut bedrock U.S. environmental laws and threaten our air, water, lands, and wildlife. We urge you to bring forward legislation that is free of these harmful ideological riders.

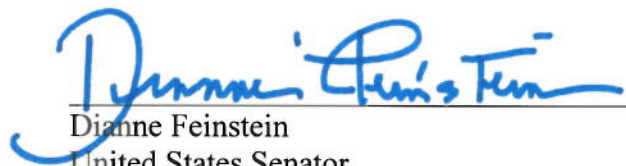
Instead of undermining this legislation with harmful environmental policy riders that have nothing to do with the nation's spending certainty, we strongly urge you to bring forward legislation free of controversial provisions to fund the federal government through a short-term or long-term spending package.

Please oppose any riders that would gut America's foundational environmental laws.

Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



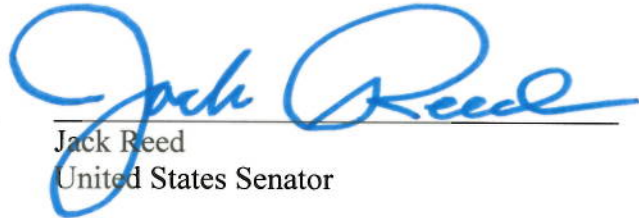
Patty Murray  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Jack Reed  
United States Senator



Bill Nelson  
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



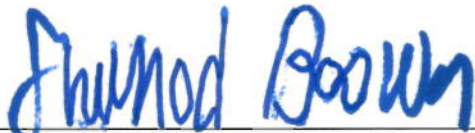
Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Tom Udall  
United States Senator



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Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



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Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



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Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



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Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



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Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



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Al Franken  
United States Senator



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Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



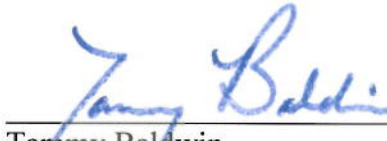
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Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



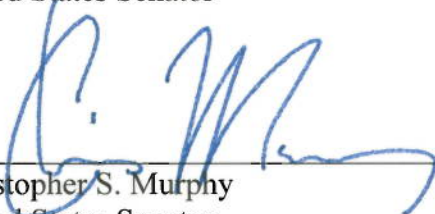
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Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



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Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



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Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



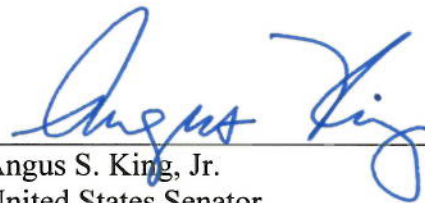
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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



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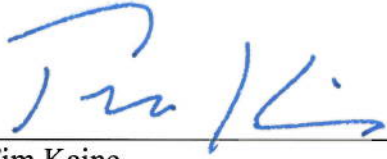
Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



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Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator

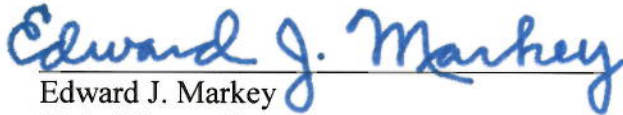




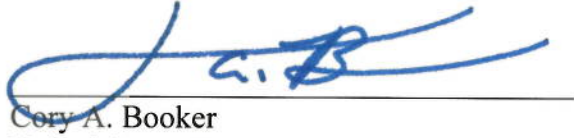
Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



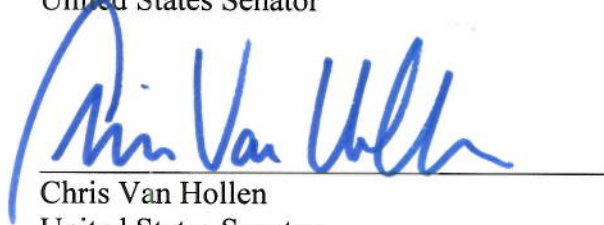
Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator




Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator