

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.

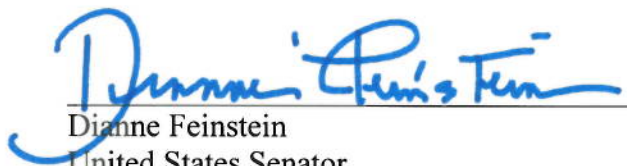
Instead of undermining this legislation with harmful environmental policy riders that have nothing to do with the nation's spending certainty, we strongly urge you to bring forward legislation free of controversial provisions to fund the federal government through a short-term or long-term spending package.

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

Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



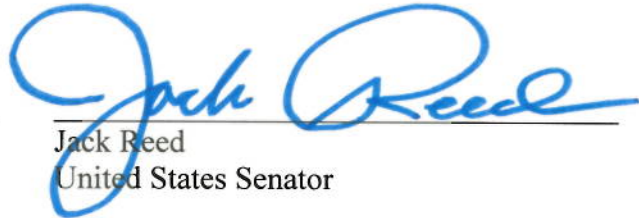
Patty Murray
United States Senator



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



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



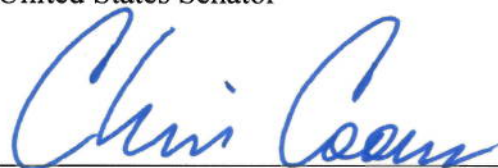
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Al Franken
United States Senator



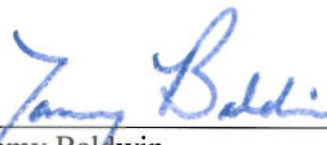
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



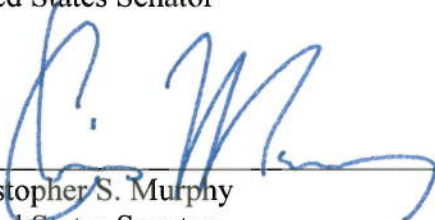
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



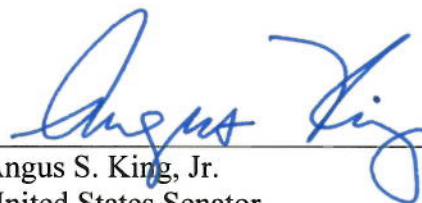
Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



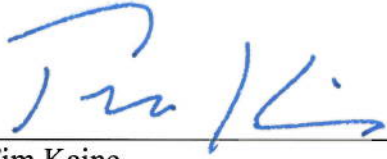
Mazie Hirono
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



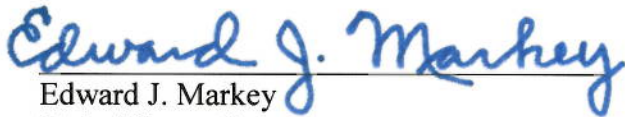
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



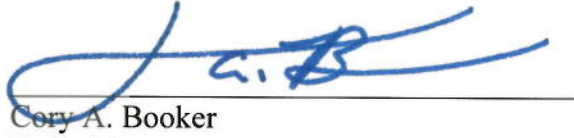
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



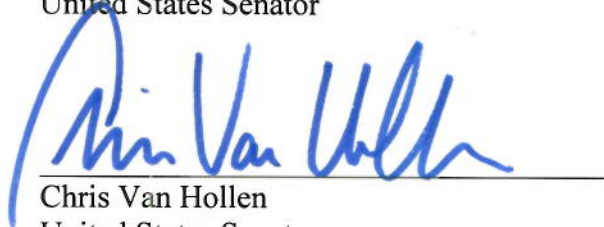
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



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