

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Ranking Member, Committee on  
Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey  
Ranking Member, Committee on  
Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

March 30, 2018

Dear Minority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader Pelosi, Ranking Member Leahy, and Ranking Member Lowey,

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters nationwide, we thank you for your unbelievably hard work and steadfast support of our cultural and natural resources, the environment, and public health through the FY18 omnibus appropriations bill negotiations.

As you know, both chambers' base bills began with dozens of provisions to potentially damage our clean air, fresh water, wildlife, public lands and oceans, and the laws that protect them. Over the course of your tireless committee and leadership negotiations regarding our funding future, nearly all harmful policy riders were removed. We appreciate that this was no small feat and are immensely grateful for your support. From ozone protections to gray wolves, from EPA funding to Alaska's prized national forests, your efforts to retain protections were enormously successful.

As some of you have pointed out, it is discouraging that once again the nation's funding bills were targeted for so many far reaching and unrelated policy riders; these simply have no place in an appropriations discussion. We will continue to urge lawmakers across both chambers and in both parties to pursue an appropriations process free of riders harmful to our environment, leaving our air, water, lands, oceans, wildlife and more off the negotiating table. As we look toward FY19, we hope lawmakers will focus on funding the agencies charged with managing our land and natural resources and protecting our health and the environment as their sole priority.

While not every potentially damaging policy provision was removed from the FY18 bill, and this is unfortunate, we recognize the overall success of the omnibus and the increased funding levels that will start to bring sounder budgets to our federal agencies. We are hopeful that this wholesale denial of the administration's harmful FY18 budget proposal and successful passage of the FY18 omnibus bill through Congress sends a clear message to the administration—Americans are committed to the protection of our environment, public health and local economies.

Thank you again for your hard work; we look forward to working with you as we launch into our next appropriations process.

Sincerely,

Adam Kolton, Executive Director  
**Alaska Wilderness League**

Wm. Robert Irvin, President and CEO  
**American Rivers**

Nancy Somerville, Hon. ASLA CEO  
**American Society of Landscape Architects**

Cathy Liss, President  
**Animal Welfare Institute**

Elizabeth Evans, CEO  
**Bluestem Communications**

Prashant Khetan, CEO & General Counsel  
**Born Free USA**

Kieran Suckling, Executive Director  
**Center for Biological Diversity**

Jacqueline Guild, Executive Director  
**Chesapeake Legal Alliance**

Robert Wendelgass, President & CEO  
**Clean Water Action**

Phil Francis, Chair  
**Coalition to Protect America's National Parks**

Brian Sybert, Executive Director  
**Conservation Lands Foundation**

Jamie Rappaport Clark, President & CEO  
**Defenders of Wildlife**

William Schleizer, CEO  
**Delta Institute**

James N. Bull, President  
**Detroit Audubon**

Ronald C. Waybrant PhD, President  
**Dwight Lydell Chapter, Izaak Walton League of America**

Vince Meldrum, Vice President of Programs  
**Earth Force**

Trip Van Noppen, President  
**Earthjustice**

Robert Hughes, Executive Director  
**Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation**

Ruby Stemmler, Founder & CEO  
**EcoLatinos, LLC**

Leda Huta, Executive Director  
**Endangered Species Coalition**

Ed Johnson, President  
**Environment America**

Fred Krupp, President  
**Environmental Defense Fund**

Howard A. Learner, Executive Director  
**Environmental Law & Policy Center**

Ruth Greenspan Bell, President  
**Environmental Protection Network**

Jill Ryan, Executive Director  
**Freshwater Future**

Roger McManus, President  
**Friends of the Sonoran Desert**

Ivan J Hack Jr Chapter, President  
**Headwaters Chapter Izaak Walton League**

Jesse Kharbanda, Executive Director  
**Hoosier Environmental Council**

Maureen Hackett, MD, Founder and President  
**Howling For Wolves**

Sara Amundson, President  
**Humane Society Legislative Fund**

Suzanne Ehlers, President & CEO  
**Impassioned Advocates for Girls and Women**

Jodi Rose, Executive Director  
**Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake**

Alicia Smith, President  
**Junction Coalition**

Gene Karpinski, President  
**League of Conservation Voters**

Paulette Hammond, President & CEO  
**Maryland Conservation Council**

Dr. Kenneth Merckel, President  
**Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association**

John Ropp, President & CEO  
**Michigan Wildlife Conservancy**

Theresa Pierno, President & CEO  
**National Parks Conservation Association**

**Collin O'Mara, President & CEO**  
National Wildlife Federation

Rhea Suh, President  
**Natural Resources Defense Council**

Mark Allison, Executive Director  
**New Mexico Wild**

Todd Leahy, Acting Executive Director  
**New Mexico Wildlife Federation**

Dennis West, President  
**Northern Initiatives**

Jacqueline Savitz, Chief Policy Officer, North America  
**Oceana**

Heather Taylor-Meisle, Executive Director  
**Ohio Environmental Council**

Gary Werner, Executive Director  
**Partnership for the National Trails System**

Angela Glover Blackwell, CEO  
**PolicyLink**

Robert K. Musil, Ph.D., M.P.H., President & CEO  
**Rachel Carson Council**

Raj Shukla, Executive Director  
**River Alliance of Wisconsin**

Lorette Picciano, Executive Director  
**Rural Coalition**

Joni Teter, Coordinator  
**Save EPA**

Lee Willbanks, Riverkeeper & Executive Director  
**Save The River / Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper**

Rick Middleton, Executive Director  
**Southern Environmental Law Center**

Scott Groene, Executive Director  
**Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance**

Tony Janisch, Executive Director  
**Superior Rivers Watershed Association**

Vien Truong, CEO  
**The Dream Corps**

Kitty Block, Acting President & CEO  
**The Humane Society of the United States**

Diane Regas, President & CEO  
**The Trust for Public Land**

Jamie Williams  
**The Wilderness Society**

Kenneth Kimmell, President  
**Union of Concerned Scientists**

John Horning, Executive Director  
**WildEarth Guardians**