

Alaska Wilderness Action * American Bird Conservancy * Clean Water Action * Defenders of Wildlife * Earthjustice * Endangered Species Coalition * Environmental Advocates of New York * Environmental Defense Fund * League of Conservation Voters * National Parks Conservation Association * Natural Resources Defense Council * Ocean Conservancy * Public Lands Alliance * Sierra Club * The Wilderness Society * Western Organization of Resource Councils

July 25, 2019

Dear Member of Congress,

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters nationwide, we write to urge your yes vote on the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019, H.R. 3877. This bill will raise the budget caps imposed by the Budget Control Act and avoid the damaging cuts that would come with sequestration. The budget agreement on the floor this week would ensure that the agencies and programs that protect and care for our air, climate, lands, water, oceans and wildlife are able to better accomplish their critical missions, and would allow the FY2020 appropriations process to proceed.

The devastating sequestration cuts that would be imposed if Congress does not act would result in a \$125 billion cut to discretionary programs, causing irreparable harm to critical initiatives, programs, and priorities. Without action, this would mean a roughly 9% cut to current levels to nondefense discretionary programs, agencies and initiatives including those critical to the health of our environment and communities. These cuts would be felt deeply by states, localities and the most vulnerable segments of our society.

The funding of critical investments that protect our environment is vitally important. The power of the purse granted to Congress by the Constitution is one of its most crucial authorities in protecting the public trust. This is particularly applicable in ensuring that the taxpayer money the federal government is entrusted in spending is done efficiently, lawfully and with the intent of the public's elected representatives in Congress. To this end, we remain strongly supportive of the necessary effort the House has undertaken to increase oversight of the Trump administration's frequent misuse of taxpayer dollars, and attacks on the environment, and are concerned by attempts to use this deal or the appropriations process going forward to undermine those increases in oversight and accountability. The agreement reached along with H.R. 3877 should remove environmentally damaging legacy riders, and ensure that increased oversight of the Trump administration remains intact.

Again, we urge support for H.R. 3877 to prevent damaging cuts to environmental programs and agencies and to allow the appropriations process to move forward. Moving forward to urge Congress to improve investments for environmental funding, and to hold the administration accountable for its efforts to undermine our land, air, water and wildlife.

Sincerely,

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Clean Water Action
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