

**American Rivers \* Audubon \* Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future \* Clean Water Action \*  
Center for Biological Diversity \* Defenders of Wildlife \* Earthjustice \*  
Environmental Defense Fund \* Friends of the Earth \* Greenpeace \*  
Natural Resources Defense Council \* Oceana \* Sierra Club \* The Wilderness Society \*  
United States Climate Action Network**

January 26, 2012

The Honorable Max Baucus  
United States Senate  
511 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-2602

The Honorable Dave Camp  
U.S. House of Representatives  
341 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-2204

Dear Chairman Baucus and Chairman Camp:

We are writing to reiterate our strong opposition to any and all efforts to add anti-environmental riders to the tax bill that Congress has committed to getting done early this year. As we have said before, this kind of legislating is absolutely contrary to the public interest on both substantive and procedural grounds. At a time when Congress has committed itself to providing tax relief, there is no excuse for making the process more difficult by saddling the bill with unpopular provisions that would damage health and the environment.

The public is clearly uninterested in seeing Congress playing political games in these economically difficult times. Yet, trying to add unrelated, anti-environmental riders to must-pass bills is nothing more than hostage taking. This legislation should not be held up in an effort to force through unrelated matters that have not received proper consideration or public scrutiny.

One proposal would force approval of a new route for the 2,000 mile long Keystone XL tar sands pipeline with almost no review of how it would affect water supplies and other public resources. This seemingly unprecedented effort to turn Congress into a permitting body and to totally rewrite mechanisms in the middle of a process goes far beyond standard practice. Another would risk the lives of 8,000 Americans each year by blocking limits on mercury and other air toxic pollution from industrial boilers and incinerators.

These riders, like the others being discussed, would not have saved taxpayers a dime or alter tax policy, but they would do real damage to health and the environment, and they have not received the scrutiny they require. Congress should be spending its time trying to conclude the work it has promised to undertake, not use deadlines as an excuse to kill safeguards on which the public relies.

Sincerely,

Jim Bradley  
Senior Director of Government Relations  
**American Rivers**

Brian Moore  
Legislative Director  
**Audubon**

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**Sierra Club**

Alan Rowsome  
Director of Conservation Funding  
**The Wilderness Society**

Lara Levison  
Domestic Policy Director  
**United States Climate Action Network**

cc: Ranking Member Hatch, Ranking Member Levin