Dear Chairman Shelby, Chairwoman Lowey, Ranking Member Leahy, and Ranking Member Granger:

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters across the country, we respectfully request that you help protect the environment and healthy communities by increasing funding for key environmental agencies and programs in Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21). A final omnibus conference agreement should meet or exceed the funding levels laid out in the House’s FY21 bills, exclude harmful legacy riders, and ensure that COVID-related costs are provided for in emergency titles.

It is imperative that agencies and programs tasked with essential environmental functions have the resources they need to effectively safeguard our wildlife, natural and historic landmarks, oceans, drinking water, air quality, and more. These vital institutions also advance science and research, which provide a guiding light for informed decision making and technologies needed to address the climate crisis. Unfortunately, these agencies and programs have been chronically underfunded for years. Though we recognize this year’s budgetary constraints, we ask that you increase 302(b) allocations and provide additional funding for environmental priorities.

We also urge you to remove legacy poison pill riders grandfathered in from previous budget cycles. These perennial legacy riders would restrict the incoming administration from effectively protecting our environment and public health. These provisions do not belong in appropriations bills, and we ask that you exclude them.

Finally, we urge you to include the emergency titles in the House funding bills, in order to cover emergency costs that agencies incur this year. This emergency funding is necessary to ensure that agencies and programs overseeing environmental priorities are able to dedicate, at a minimum, the same resources as last year toward their missions—rather than drawing from those funds to pay expenses related to COVID-19.

Environmental funding is a priority for our groups and our community, including many of your constituents. We stand ready to support your leadership in meeting this funding request. Thank you for considering our views and for your work to meet the country’s needs during this difficult time.
Sincerely,

Alaska Wilderness League Action  Humane Society Legislative Fund
American Bird Conservancy  Interfaith Power & Light
American Hiking Society  League of Conservation Voters
Animal Wellness Action  National Audubon Society
Appalachian Trail Conservancy  National Parks Conservation Association
Clean Water Action  National Wildlife Federation
Climate Law & Policy Project  Natural Resources Defense Council
Conservation Lands Foundation  Ocean Conservancy
Defenders of Wildlife  Oceana
Earthjustice  Oxfam America
Earthworks  Partnership for the National Trail System
Endangered Species Coalition  Public Lands Alliance
Environment America  Sierra Club
Environmental Defense Fund  Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
Environmental Law & Policy Center  The Trust for Public Land
Environmental Protection Network  The Wilderness Society
Environmental Working Group  The Wildlife Society
Friends of the Earth  Union of Concerned Scientists