

January 11, 2018

Dear Members of Congress,

We, the undersigned organizations as a part of the Clean Budget Coalition, write to ask you to oppose any FY 2018 omnibus or other spending measure which includes ideological poison pill policy riders.

The majority in Congress are quietly trying to slip in special interest wish list items via poison pill riders into the year-end funding packages.

Appropriations bills continue to be misused to undermine essential safeguards through partisan poison pill “policy riders” – provisions that address extraneous and unpopular policy issues. Slipping unrelated and damaging issues into must-pass appropriations bills as a means to win approval is a dangerous strategy for the public.

Poison pill riders are unpopular as standalone legislation, and the public opposes using them to roll back public protections. The American people support policies to:

- Restrain Wall Street abuses;
- Ensure safe and healthy food and products;
- Secure our air, land, water and wildlife;
- Safeguard fair and safe workplaces;
- Guard against consumer rip-offs and corporate wrongdoing;
- Defend our campaign finance and election systems;
- Provide access to justice and fair housing;
- Protect civil rights; and
- Guarantee continued access to vital health care services including reproductive health care, and more.

The Majority budget is rigged for billionaires and big business and could be especially dangerous when combined with their tax plan which features deep cuts that endanger our health and safety, our workplaces and wallets, as well as, our environment and our economy. In addition, any omnibus passed through Congress must go far beyond the obviously inadequate sequester funding levels, to robustly fund agencies and programs to protect the public.

There is an indisputable difference between partisan policy riders that hurt the public and popular policy solutions that are necessary and will help many. Policy solutions with broad bipartisan support are not only appropriate; they are necessary to address urgent situations or to extend essential services. Examples include extending the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), providing disaster funding to deal with catastrophic storms and wildfires, and protecting Dreamers.

We urge Members of Congress to support increasing the spending caps to fund pivotal programs for the American people with parity between defense and nondefense funds, while opposing any flawed omnibus that includes poison pill policy riders.

Sincerely,

National Groups

Action on Smoking and Health

Advocates for Youth

AFL-CIO

Alaska Wilderness League

American Association for Justice

American Association of University Women (AAUW)

American Atheists

American Bird Conservancy
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
American Federation of Teachers
American Forests
American Rivers
American Sustainable Business Council
Americans for Financial Reform
Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization
Black Women's Health Imperative
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Media and Democracy
Center for Popular Democracy
Center for Progressive Reform
Center for Science in the Public Interest
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
Citizen Works
Clean Water Action
Coalition on Human Needs
Common Cause
Communications Workers of America (CWA)
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces
Consumer Action
Consumer Federation of America
Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety
Corporate Accountability
Defenders of Wildlife
Democracy 21
Earthjustice
End Citizens United
Endangered Species Coalition
Environmental Working Group
Family Equality Council
Franciscan Action Network
Free Press Action Fund
Friends of the Earth
Green For All
Hip Hop Caucus
Hispanic Federation
Homeowners Against Deficient Dwellings
Impact Fund
Indivisible
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees
International Fund for Animal Welfare
International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW)
JPIC Adorers
KidsAndCars.org
Leadership Conference of Women Religious
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
League of Conservation Voters
League of Women Voters of the United States
Main Street Alliance
MomsRising

NAACP
NARAL Pro-Choice America
NASTAD
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Association for College Admission Counseling
National Association of Consumer Advocates
National Association of Social Workers
National Black Justice Coalition
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Coalition for the Homeless
National Council of Jewish Women
National Disability Rights Network
National Education Association
National Employment Law Project
National Equality Action Team (NEAT)
National Fair Housing Alliance
National Health Law Program
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Urban League
National Women's Health Network
National Women's Law Center
Natural Resources Defense Council
Network for Environmental & Economic Responsibility
New Progressive Alliance
Outserve - SLDN
PAI
People Demanding Action
People For the American Way
Physicians for Social Responsibility
PLACE
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
PolicyLink
Power Shift Network
Protect All Children's Environment
Public Citizen
PWN-usa
Rachel Carson Council
Restore America's Estuaries
Safe Climate Campaign
Secular Coalition for America
Service Employees International Union
Sierra Club
Sisters of Mercy South Central Community
SocioEnergetics Foundation
State Innovation Exchange (SiX)
The Bright Lines Project
The Wilderness Society
UFCW International Union
UnidosUS (formerly National Council of La Raza)
Union of Concerned Scientists

UNITE HERE!

United Church of Christ, OC Inc.

United Steelworkers (USW)

Voices for Progress

Waterkeeper Alliance

Women's Voices for the Earth

State Groups

AIDS Alabama

California School Employees Association

CASA of Oregon

Church Women United in New York State

Disabled Rights Action Committee - Utah

Earth Action, Inc. - Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, Louisiana

Empower Missouri

Equality California

Florida Alliance for Consumer Protection

Franciscan Sisters of Mary - Missouri

Housing & Community Development Network – New Jersey

Interfaith Impact of New York State

Kentucky Equal Justice Center

Maryland United for Peace and Justice

Monarch Housing Associates – New Jersey

New Jersey Association on Correction

Pennsylvania Council of Churches

Public Justice Center - Maryland

Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary – South Dakota

Local Groups

Columbia Housing Authority - Columbia, MO

Greater Syracuse Council on Occupational Safety and Health Inc. - Syracuse, NY

Homeless Solutions, Inc. - Morris County, NJ

Labor of Love Safety Training and Consulting – Morgantown, WV

Los Angeles LGBT Center - Los Angeles, CA

Los Padres ForestWatch - Santa Barbara, CA

Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness - Northeastern Minnesota region

Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia - Philadelphia, PA

Union of Sisters of the Presentation of the BVM US Province - San Antonio, TX

West Valley Neighborhoods Coalition - El Mirage, AZ

Whitman-Walker Health - Washington, DC metropolitan area

YWCA of the Greater Capital Region - Troy, NY