

July 19, 2011

Speaker John Boehner
1011 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-6205

Dear Speaker Boehner:

On behalf of our members and activists we are writing to express our strong opposition to H.R. 2560, the *Cut, Cap, and Balance Act of 2011*. H.R. 2560 would lock in spending cuts over the next ten years of at least the unreasonable levels of the Ryan Budget and require a super majority and passage of a Constitutional Balanced Budget Amendment before the debt limit can be increased. This draconian bill would undermine the government's ability to fund programs essential to protecting public health and the environment and leave Americans vulnerable to pollution, toxic chemicals, and other threats to human health.

Tough choices will have to be made to put our fiscal house in order, but funding is necessary for our government to defend our health and environment. *The Cut, Cap and Balance Act of 2011* would cut spending to levels in the Ryan Budget. This would reduce non-security discretionary programs by 33 percent in 2021 relative to the Congressional Budget Office's January baseline. Protecting the environment and public health are investments in our future that reduce the burden on our healthcare system, protect valuable natural resources and reduce the costs of environmental cleanup. This bill would simply make it impossible for the federal government to fulfill this important role.

The *Cut, Cap, and Balance Act of 2011* would result in a fundamental reshaping of the role of the federal government, and it is a blatant effort to protect the wealthy and corporate special interests at the expense of the environment and other essential government functions. We strongly encourage you to oppose the Cut, Cap, and Balance Act of 2011.

Sincerely,

Michelle Chan
Economic Policy Project Director
Friends of the Earth

Tiernan Sittenfeld
Senior Vice President for Government
Affairs
League of Conservation Voters

Scott Slesinger
Legislative Director
Natural Resources Defense Council

Alan Rowsome
Director of Conservation Funding
The Wilderness Society

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