

**American Rivers * Center for Biological Diversity * Clean Water Action * Defenders of Wildlife
Earthjustice * Friends of the Earth * League of Conservation Voters * National Audubon Society
National Parks Conservation Association * Natural Resources Defense Council
Oceana * Ocean Conservancy * Population Action International * Population Connection
Sierra Club * The Wilderness Society**

January 16, 2013

Dear Senator/Member of Congress;

We are writing to urge you to address the next segment of the “fiscal cliff” in a responsible manner that will allow for continued environmental protection and advances in clean energy while strengthening the economy. Specifically, that means ensuring that the nation does not sacrifice public health and the environment as a result of more discretionary cuts or a threat of default. We must move toward a fiscal approach that prioritizes more revenues including closing tax loopholes that harm the environment and waste resources.

The American Tax Relief Act took the important step of raising new revenue while continuing to invest in a clean energy future. Unfortunately, further spending cuts and the sweeping impacts they would inflict on every American family still loom.

Any responsible plan must once again include new revenue and must abandon the misguided notion that slashing environment and energy programs will solve our fiscal woes. Doing so wouldn’t dent the deficit, but it would leave a legacy of dirtier air, undrinkable water, slashed research, threatened wildlife, and shuttered national parks. Moreover, those programs are already being cut under previous budget agreements.

In contrast, closing harmful and wasteful tax loopholes will raise needed revenue while benefiting our health and environment. For example, it is clearly not in the national interest to continue lavishing the oil industry with billions in special giveaways every year. Ending these century-old subsidies would not only save billions, but also help break our nation’s dangerous oil addiction which continues to pollute our air and drive global warming.

Most importantly, we urge you to work with the Administration to responsibly and rapidly resolve these budget matters in a manner that recognizes a healthy environment supports a healthy economy. Much remains to be done to move our country forward to a healthier, safer, and more prosperous future, and it is time put the budget battles to rest and address the remaining challenges of our time.

Sincerely,

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