

**Alaska Wilderness League \* Defenders of Wildlife \* Earthjustice  
Environmental Defense Action Fund \* League of Conservation Voters  
Natural Resources Defense Council \* Sierra Club**

April 8, 2014

Dear Representative:

The environmental community supported the Bipartisan Budget Act negotiated by Chairman Paul Ryan and Chairman Patty Murray. We had hoped lawmakers would build on this momentum and work together to adopt a more balanced approach to the budget issues facing the country. Instead, the budget blueprint released by Chairman Ryan takes a drastic step backwards, slashing funding for core domestic programs including our national parks, our environmental protections, our critical infrastructure as well as energy and health research far below crippling sequestration levels.

Chairman Ryan's budget proposal would cut the already inadequate discretionary budget caps by \$308 billion over the next decade. Within that spending limit, his budget would increase defense spending by \$483 billion to address the "mismatch between the threats we face and the resources we've committed to meeting them." Despite the mismatch we have on the domestic front between critical needs and resources, his budget cuts nondefense discretionary (NDD) programs by \$791 billion below the woefully inadequate levels now in place. Indeed, if Chairman Ryan had his way, funding for these programs would fall to 22 percent below current levels by 2024. Our crumbling water and transportation infrastructure, our parks, and our environment need investments, not cuts.

Despite the clear devastation these cuts would generate to our communities, the Ryan budget would also continue to hand over billions in subsidies to oil companies and give the five largest oil companies billions of dollars more in tax cuts by reducing the corporate income tax rate. It would even sell lands that belong to the American public to benefit private energy companies.

In short, budgets are about choices and the Ryan budget systematically chooses the health of big polluters' pocketbooks over the health of the American public.

Once again, we urge you to oppose the Ryan budget. We need a budget plan for the 21st century, not one that pollutes our air and water, threatens our wildlife, and ignores the devastating impacts of climate change.

Sincerely,

Alaska Wilderness League

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