February 24, 2011

RE: Please Vote No on Any Continuing Resolution Riders Seeking to Defund EPA Coal Ash Work

Dear Senator:

On behalf of our millions of members, activists and supporters in all 50 states across the country, we are writing today to urge you to vote "No” on any riders restricting EPA’s authority to implement strong safeguards on coal ash.

Coal ash is a dangerous waste generated by burning coal for energy, and it contains many hazardous metals and chemicals like arsenic, lead, hexavalent chromium and selenium. Despite its hazardous characteristics, coal ash is not subject to federal regulations, and state laws governing coal ash disposal are usually weak or non-existent.

Across the country, millions of tons of coal ash are being stored in unlined ponds, landfills and mines. Many of these sites lack adequate safeguards leaving nearby communities at risk from potential large scale disasters, like the massive coal ash spill in Tennessee in 2008, and from gradual yet equally dangerous contamination as coal ash toxins seep into drinking water sources.

As the nation’s leader on clean air and water issues, EPA must address this problem. The public health and environmental hazards from unsafe coal ash dumping have been known for many years, including increased risk of cancer, learning disabilities, neurological disorders, birth defects, reproductive failure, asthma and other sicknes.

EPA has the authority and responsibility to put in place common-sense rules that protect human health and the environment by controlling the disposal of dry coal ash and phasing out the dumping of wet ash in unsafe ponds. We ask Congress to support the EPA as they move forward with a coal ash rule that is based on the best science and that provides the same federally enforceable standards for all communities. Everyday, Americans face the danger of living with toxic coal ash in their backyards, threatening to poison their communities.

The time is now to protect them. Please vote “No” on any amendments that would stop EPA from implementing consistent and enforceable safeguards that will protect human health and the environment by ensuring safe disposal of coal ash across the nation.

Cc: 112th Senate
NATION-WIDE
Environmental Integrity Project
Citizens for Health
Clean Water Network
Clean Energy & Energy Efficiency Program
Defenders of Wildlife
Environment America
Friends of the Earth
Greenpeace
Izaak Walton League of America
League of Conservation Voters
National Parks Conservation Association
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Public Citizen
Restoring Eden

ALABAMA
Alabama Environmental Council
Black Warrior Riverkeeper
Blackbelt Citizens Fighting for Health and Justice
Cahaba Riverkeeper
Friends of Hurricane Creek
Hurricane Creekkeeper
Lowndes Citizens United for Action
Wild Law
Wildlaw Community Organizing Project

ALASKA
Alaska Community Action on Toxics
Cook Inletkeeper
Northern Alaska Environmental Center
Resurrection Bay Conservation Alliance

ARIZONA
Center for Biological Diversity

ARKANSAS
Arkansas Wildlife Federation
Audubon Arkansas

CALIFORNIA
As You Sow
Citizens Climate Lobby
Clean Water Action
Commonweal
Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies
Earthjustice
Environmental Advocates
Interfaith Power & Light
Global Community Monitor

COLORADO
Bardwell Consulting
Clean Energy Action
Colorado Fourteeners Against CCW
Ratepayers United of Colorado

CONNECTICUT
Environment Northeast

DELAWARE
Citizens for Clean Power

FLORIDA
Farmworker Association of Florida
Neighbors for Neighbors

GEORGIA
Environment Georgia
Environmental Justice Resource Center
Fall-line Alliance for a Clean Environment
Georgians for Smart Energy

HAWAII
Maui Tomorrow Foundation, Inc.

IDAHO
Idaho Rivers United

ILLINOIS
American Bottom Conservancy
Citizens Against Ruining the Environment – C.A.R.E.
Citizens Organizing Project, Knox County
Environmental Law & Policy Center
Faith in Place
Prairies River Network
Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago
Students for Environmental Concerns at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Healthy Child Healthy World
Making Our Milk Safe
Our Children’s Earth Foundation
Sierra Club

Page 3 of 5
INDIANA
Hoosier Environmental Council
People in Need of Environmental Safety (P.I.N.E.S.)
Protect Our Rivers Now!
Save the Dunes
Save the Valley
Sustainable Earth
Valley Watch, Inc.

MINNESOTA
Clean Up the River Environment
Conservation Minnesota
Fresh Energy
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

MISSISSIPPI
Mississippians for Affordable Energy

MISSOURI
Concerned Citizens of Carroll County
Labadie Environmental Organization

KANSAS
Arkansas River Coalition
Great Plains Alliance for Clean Energy

KENTUCKY
Kentucky Environmental Foundation
Kentuckians for the Commonwealth
Kentucky Heartwood
Kentucky Resources Council

MONTANA
Citizens for Clean Energy, Inc.
Montana Environmental Information Center
Women’s Voices of the Earth
Western Organization of Resource Councils

LOUISIANA
Louisiana Bucket Brigade

MONTANA
Citizens for Clean Energy, Inc.
Montana Environmental Information Center
Women’s Voices of the Earth
Western Organization of Resource Councils

MAINE
Conservation Law Foundation
Environment Northeast
Natural Resources Council of Maine

NEBRASKA
Audubon Nebraska
Nebraska Groundwater Foundation
Wildcat Audubon Society

MASSACHUSETTS
Clean Air Task Force
Clean Power Now
Environment Northeast
HealthLink
Wenham Lake Watershed Association

NEVADA
Great Basin Resource Watch

NEW HAMPSHIRE
An Environmental Trust, Inc.
Hopwood, Inc.

NEW JERSEY
Environment New Jersey

NEW MEXICO
San Juan Citizens Alliance
Southwest Research and Information Center

NEW YORK
Citizens’ Environmental Coalition (NY)
Clean New York
Concerned Residents of Portland, NY + People Like Us
Natural Resources Defense Council
New York Public Interest Research Group
Waterkeeper Alliance

NORTH CAROLINA
Appalachian Voices
Catawba Riverkeeper
Clean Air Carolina
Clean Water for North Carolina

IOWA
Iowa Environmental Council
Plains Justice

KENTUCKY
Kentucky Environmental Foundation
Kentuckians for the Commonwealth
Kentucky Heartwood
Kentucky Resources Council

LOUISIANA
Louisiana Bucket Brigade

KANSAS
Arkansas River Coalition
Great Plains Alliance for Clean Energy

MONTANA
Citizens for Clean Energy, Inc.
Montana Environmental Information Center
Women’s Voices of the Earth
Western Organization of Resource Councils

MAINE
Conservation Law Foundation
Environment Northeast
Natural Resources Council of Maine

NEBRASKA
Audubon Nebraska
Nebraska Groundwater Foundation
Wildcat Audubon Society

MASSACHUSETTS
Clean Air Task Force
Clean Power Now
Environment Northeast
HealthLink
Wenham Lake Watershed Association

NEW HAMPSHIRE
An Environmental Trust, Inc.
Hopwood, Inc.

NEW JERSEY
Environment New Jersey

NEW MEXICO
San Juan Citizens Alliance
Southwest Research and Information Center

NEW YORK
Citizens’ Environmental Coalition (NY)
Clean New York
Concerned Residents of Portland, NY + People Like Us
Natural Resources Defense Council
New York Public Interest Research Group
Waterkeeper Alliance

NORTH CAROLINA
Appalachian Voices
Catawba Riverkeeper
Clean Air Carolina
Clean Water for North Carolina
Mountain Voices Alliance
People Advocating Real Conservancy (PARC)
French Broad Riverkeeper
NC Conservation Network
North Carolina Conservation Network
North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light
Western North Carolina Alliance

NORTH DAKOTA
Dakota Resource Council

OHIO
Meigs Citizens Action Now!
Ohio Citizen Action
Ohio Environmental Council
Ohio River Foundation

OKLAHOMA
B.E. Cause
Center for Energy Matters

OREGON
OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon
Western Environmental Law Center

PENNSYLVANIA
Action for Change Today
Citizens for Pennsylvania’s Future
Center for Coalfield Justice
Clean Air Council
Citizen Advocates United to Safeguard the Environment, Inc. (CAUSE)
Citizen Power
Citizens Against Coal Ash (CACA)
Citizens Against Longwall Mining (CALM)
Citizens Coal Council
Delaware Riverkeeper
Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds
Mountain Watershed Association
Residents Against Power Plants

RHODE ISLAND
Environment Northeast

SOUTH CAROLINA
South Carolina Coastal Conservation League

SOUTH DAKOTA
South Dakota Peace & Justice Center
Dakota Rural Action

TENNESSEE
Heartwood
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
Tennessee Coal Ash Survivors Network
Tennessee Clean Water Network
Watauga Watershed Alliance

TEXAS
Abilenians Against Tenaska
Air Alliance Houston
Bastrop County Environmental Network
Citizens’ Environmental Coalition (TX)

UTAH
Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment

VERMONT
Vermont Law School Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic

VIRGINIA
Concerned Citizens of Giles County LLC
Southern Environmental Law Center

WASHINGTON
Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power & Light

WEST VIRGINIA
Appalachian Center for the Economy and the Environment
Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
West Virginia Highlands Conservancy

WISCONSIN
Clean Wisconsin
H.O.P.E. (Harmony Opposes Pollution to our Environment)
Madison Audubon Society
Mercury Free Wisconsin
Midwest Environmental Advocates
Milwaukee Riverkeeper

WYOMING
Powder River Basin Resource Council
Wyoming Conservation Voters
Wyoming Outdoor Council