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Anti-Environment Votes in the 112th Congress

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Democratic Staff

Committee on Natural Resources, Democratic Staff

The House of Representatives in the current Congress is the most anti-environment House in the history of Congress. So far this year, the House has voted 110 times to undermine the protection of the environment.

The House is currently debating H.R. 2584, the FY 2012 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill, which some have called “the worst assault on clean air and water in history.” This legislation contains 39 new anti-environment riders and slashes funding for the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Interior. The votes on H.R. 2584 are not included in this analysis.

The anti-environment votes taken by the House include 20 votes to block actions to address climate change. These include votes to deny that climate change is occurring; to block EPA from regulating carbon emissions from power plants and oil refineries; to block EPA from regulating carbon emissions from motor vehicles, which also reduces oil imports; and even to eliminate requirements that large sources disclose the level of their carbon emissions.

The anti-environment votes include 28 votes to block actions to prevent air and water pollution. These include votes to block EPA from regulating mercury and other hazardous air pollutants emitted from cement plants; to relax emission requirements for offshore oil and gas activities; to stop EPA from establishing new water quality standards or enforcing existing ones; and to prevent EPA from protecting streams from the effects of mountaintop-removal mining.

The anti-environment votes include 27 votes to undermine protection for public lands and coastal areas. These include votes to slash funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund; to require oil and gas leasing off of the East and West Coasts; and to waive requirements for environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for offshore oil and gas activities.

And the anti-environment votes include 22 votes to defund or repeal clean energy initiatives. These include votes to overturn new, industry-supported energy efficiency standards for light bulbs; to cut funding for renewable energy projects; and to defund research into promising clean energy technologies.

Multiple federal agencies and statutes have been targeted by the anti-environment votes. Among federal agencies, the most common targets have been the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Interior: 42 votes targeted the Environmental Protection Agency; 24 votes targeted the Department of Energy; and 20 votes targeted the Department of the Interior.

Among federal statutes, the most common targets have been the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and NEPA: 26 votes rolled back or defunded the Clean Air Act; 16 votes rolled back or defunded the Clean Water Act; and 10 votes limited the application of NEPA.

The anti-environment votes were highly partisan. Of the 110 anti-environment votes, 95 were roll-call votes. On average, 97% of Republicans voted for the anti-environment position. In contrast, 84% of Democrats voted for the pro-environment position.

The following table provides details on each of the anti-environment votes passed by the House in the 112th Congress.

Summary of Anti-Environment Votes in the 112th Congress

Bill	Vote #, Member	Result	Description
H.R. 1, FY 2011 Full Year Continuing Appropriations Bill	H.Amdt.101, Poe	Passed, 249-177	Blocks EPA greenhouse gas regulations for major emitters
H.R. 1, FY 2011 Full Year Continuing Appropriations Bill	H.Amdt.119, Markey	Failed, 174-251	Eliminates a loophole in royalty payment requirements for offshore oil and gas drilling
H.R. 1, FY 2011 Full Year Continuing Appropriations Bill	H.Amdt.121, McClintock	Passed, 215-210	Blocks the Klamath Dam Removal and Sedimentation Study necessary to protect endangered species
H.R. 1, FY 2011 Full Year Continuing Appropriations Bill	H.Amdt.123, Herger	Passed, 227-197	Blocks DOI off-road vehicle management plans in national forests
H.R. 1, FY 2011 Full Year Continuing Appropriations Bill	H.Amdt.124, Blumenauer	Failed, 185-241	Limits environmentally damaging agricultural subsidies
H.R. 1, FY 2011 Full Year Continuing Appropriations Bill	H.Amdt.131, Johnson	Passed, 239-186	Blocks Office of Surface Mining rules to protect streams from surface coal mining
H.R. 1, FY 2011 Full Year Continuing Appropriations Bill	H.Amdt.136, Goodlatte	Passed, 230-195	Blocks funds for the development of maximum contaminant load levels for the Chesapeake Bay
H.R. 1, FY 2011 Full Year Continuing Appropriations Bill	H.Amdt.143, Rooney	Passed, 237-189	Blocks new EPA water quality standards for Florida waterways
H.R. 1, FY 2011 Full Year Continuing Appropriations Bill	H.Amdt.148, Hall	Passed, 233-187	Prevents NOAA from establishing a Climate Service
H.R. 1, FY 2011 Full Year Continuing Appropriations Bill	H.Amdt.151, Griffith	Passed, 235-185	Blocks EPA, Corps of Engineers, and Office of Surface Water Reclamation and Enforcement actions that protect navigable waters from mountaintop-removal coal mining
H.R. 1, FY 2011 Full Year Continuing Appropriations Bill	H.Amdt.154, Luetkemeyer	Passed, 244-179	Blocks the United States from contributing funds to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
H.R. 1, FY 2011 Full Year Continuing Appropriations Bill	H.Amdt.157, McKinley	Passed, 240-182	Blocks EPA from revoking Clean Water Act permits based on adverse effects on water, fish, and wildlife

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H.R. 1, FY 2011 Full Year Continuing Appropriations Bill	H.Amdt.158, McKinley	Passed, 239-183	Blocks EPA authority to regulate coal ash under Subtitle C of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
H.R. 1, FY 2011 Full Year Continuing Appropriations Bill	H.Amdt.164, Noem	Passed, 255-168	Blocks EPA authority to revise particulate matter standards under the Clean Air Act
H.R. 1, FY 2011 Full Year Continuing Appropriations Bill	H.Amdt.32, Inslee	Failed, 159-273	Transfers funds from fossil energy research to clean energy research through Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy (ARPA-E)
H.R. 1, FY 2011 Full Year Continuing Appropriations Bill	H.Amdt.35, Tonko	Failed, 208-223	Restores funds for the DOE Weatherization Assistance Program
H.R. 1, FY 2011 Full Year Continuing Appropriations Bill	H.Amdt.47, Pompeo	Passed, 239-185	Eliminates funding for EPA's greenhouse gas registry
H.R. 1, FY 2011 Full Year Continuing Appropriations Bill	H.Amdt.85, Lummis	Passed, 232-197	Blocks citizens who successfully challenge federal action from recovering their legal fees
H.R. 1, FY 2011 Full Year Continuing Appropriations Bill	H.Amdt.88, Carter	Passed, 250-177	Blocks EPA regulation of mercury and other hazardous air pollutants from cement production
H.R. 1, FY 2011 Full Year Continuing Appropriations Bill	H.Amdt.89, Scalise	Passed, 249-179	Eliminates funding for the State Department climate envoy
H.R. 1, FY 2011 Full Year Continuing Appropriations Bill	H.Amdt.96, Young	Passed, 243-185	Blocks the EPA Environmental Appeals Board from reviewing drilling permits for offshore drilling in the Arctic
H.R. 1, FY 2011 Full Year Continuing Appropriations Bill	Final Passage, Rogers	Passed, 235-189	Blocks agency actions under the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and other laws, and cuts funding for dozens of environmental protection programs at EPA, DOE, DOI, and other agencies
H. J. RES. 44, Making Further Continuing Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2011	Motion to Recommit, Keating	Failed, 176-249	Eliminates enhanced oil recovery tax credit, marginal well depletion tax deduction, and other oil industry tax credits and deductions

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H.R. 872, Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2011	Final Passage, Gibbs	Passed, 292-130	Blocks EPA from requiring a Clean Water Act permit for pesticides sprayed into navigable waters
H.R. 910, Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011	H.Amdt.251, Kind	Failed, 160-264	Strikes the text of the bill, which repeals EPA's existing authority to address carbon pollution, and replaces it with a codification of EPA's "tailoring rule," which exempts small sources from greenhouse gas permitting requirements
H.R. 910, Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011	H.Amdt.240, Jackson-Lee	Failed, 161-259	Requires a study of the impacts of blocking EPA authority to regulate greenhouse gases
H.R. 910, Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011	H.Amdt.241, Jackson-Lee	Failed, 157-266	Provides considerations and procedures to guide EPA's greenhouse gas regulations
H.R. 910, Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011	H.Amdt.243, Cuellar	Failed, voice vote	Preserves existing EPA scientific findings and rules related to greenhouse gases
H.R. 910, Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011	H.Amdt.244, Murphy (CT)	Failed, 182-240	Preserves EPA authority to provide technical assistance to state greenhouse gas programs
H.R. 910, Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011	H.Amdt.245, Waxman	Failed, 184-240	States that Congress accepts EPA's findings that climate change is occurring, is caused largely by human activities, and poses significant risks for public health and welfare
H.R. 910, Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011	H.Amdt.246, Quigley	Failed, voice vote	Requires a GAO study of health care costs resulting from the repeal of EPA authority to regulate greenhouse gases
H.R. 910, Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011	H.Amdt.247, Polis	Failed, 168-257	Ensures that EPA can protect the public health of the American people from global climate change
H.R. 910, Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011	H.Amdt.248, Markey	Failed, 156-266	Exempts EPA actions that reduce the demand for oil from the limitations in the bill
H.R. 910, Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011	H.Amdt.249, Rush	Failed, 165-260	Preserves greenhouse gas regulations until EPA and DOD determine that American security interests will not be jeopardized by their repeal
H.R. 910, Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011	Motion to Recommit, McNerney	Failed, 175-251	Recommits with instructions to remove limitations on EPA authority to protect children, seniors, and those with asthma from lung disease

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H.R. 910, Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011	Final Passage, Upton	Passed, 255-172	Repeals EPA authority to regulate greenhouse gases
H.R. 1229, Putting the Gulf Back to Work	H.Amdt.270, Polis	Failed, 167-245	Requires DOI to consider all applicable safety and environmental laws when approving offshore oil and gas activities
H.R. 1229, Putting the Gulf Back to Work	H.Amdt.271, Garamendi	Failed, 169-240	Requires DOI consultation with an independent drilling safety organization not affiliated with the American Petroleum Institute
H.R. 1229, Putting the Gulf Back to Work	H.Amdt.272, Markey	Failed, 176-237	Sets minimum standards for blowout preventers in offshore oil and gas activities
H.R. 1229, Putting the Gulf Back to Work	H.Amdt.273, Hanabusa	Failed, 187-235	Requires oil companies to certify they have the capability to respond to a worst-case oil spill
H.R. 1229, Putting the Gulf Back to Work	H.Amdt.274, Holt	Failed, 179-247	Blocks automatic DOI approval of offshore oil and gas permits if the review period expires before the agency takes action
H.R. 1229, Putting the Gulf Back to Work	H.Amdt.275, Polis	Failed, 174-254	Lifts restrictive deadlines for DOI action on offshore oil and gas activities if the agency lacks adequate budget or staff
H.R. 1229, Putting the Gulf Back to Work	H.Amdt.279, Hastings	Failed, 185-239	Preserves the ability of citizens who successfully challenge offshore drilling permits to recover their legal fees
H.R. 1229, Putting the Gulf Back to Work	Motion to Recommit, Connolly	Failed, 186-239	Blocks DOI offshore leases until the prospective leaseholders have paid all penalties from previous leases
H.R. 1229, Putting the Gulf Back to Work	Final Passage, Hastings	Passed, 263-163	Limits the DOI review period for offshore drilling permits and deems permits automatically approved if not acted on within 30 days
H.R. 1230, Restarting American Offshore Leasing Now	H.Amdt.268, Holt	Failed, 174-240	Requires new environmental analysis for offshore drilling applications
H.R. 1230, Restarting American Offshore Leasing Now	Final Passage, Hastings	Passed, 266-149	Requires issuance of DOI offshore oil and gas leases in the Gulf of Mexico and off the Virginia coast, and blocks the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act relating to the leases

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H.R. 1231, Reversing President Obama's Offshore Moratorium	H.Amdt.282, Markey	Failed, 189-238	Blocks new offshore oil and gas leases for companies that have not yet renegotiated any royalty free leases they already own
H.R. 1231, Reversing President Obama's Offshore Moratorium	H.Amdt.284, Tsongas	Failed, 195-223	Requires development and submission of worst-case scenario oil spill containment and clean up plans
H.R. 1231, Reversing President Obama's Offshore Moratorium	H.Amdt.285, Brown (FL)	Failed, 134-279	Makes the current DOI ban on drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico permanent
H.R. 1231, Reversing President Obama's Offshore Moratorium	H.Amdt.286, Thompson (CA)	Failed, 156-263	Prohibits the issuance of leases for drilling off the coast of Northern California
H.R. 1231, Reversing President Obama's Offshore Moratorium	H.Amdt.287, Inslee	Failed, 160-256	Requires approval by the state of Washington for any lease off the coast of Washington
H.R. 1231, Reversing President Obama's Offshore Moratorium	Final Passage, Hastings	Passed, 243-179	Requires issuance of DOI offshore oil and gas leases on the East and West Coasts
H.R. 1938, North American-Made Energy Security Act	H.Amdt.720, Welch	Failed, 164-260	Recognizes that the proposed Keystone XL pipeline would run through the Ogallala Aquifer and could threaten groundwater and drinking water
H.R. 1938, North American-Made Energy Security Act	H.Amdt.721, Rush	Failed, 164-261	Strikes an erroneous statement that the EPA has found the Keystone XL pipeline will not significantly impact greenhouse gas emissions
H.R. 1938, North American-Made Energy Security Act	H.Amdt.722, Eshoo	Failed, 163-264	Requires a review of current pipeline regulations to determine whether they are sufficient to address the properties of tar sands crude oil before a final order on the pipeline is issued
H.R. 1938, North American-Made Energy Security Act	H.Amdt.723, Christensen	Failed, voice vote	Recognizes that EPA estimates the Keystone XL pipeline will significantly increase carbon pollution from fuel use in the United States
H.R. 1938, North American-Made Energy Security Act	H.Amdt.724, Cohen	Failed, 155-272	States that the existing Keystone pipeline has spilled 12 times in the United States and 21 times in Canada in less than one year

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H.R. 1938, North American-Made Energy Security Act	H.Amdt.726, Rush	Failed, 161-265	Retains the current schedule for issuance of the Keystone XL pipeline permit to allow for adequate public participation
H.R. 1938, North American-Made Energy Security Act	H.Amdt.727, Hanabusa	Failed, 168-260	Requires the developers of the Keystone XL pipeline to demonstrate the capability and technology to respond to a worst-case pipeline spill before issuance of a permit
H.R. 1938, North American-Made Energy Security Act	H.Amdt.728, Johnson (GA)	Failed, 163-263	Requires a study of the health impacts of air pollution from refineries served by the Keystone XL pipeline
H.R. 1938, North American-Made Energy Security Act	Final Passage, Terry	Passed, 279-147	Abbreviates the review process for approval of the Keystone XL pipeline to limit public participation and interagency review; contains congressional findings that misstate the environmental effects of the pipeline
H.R. 2017, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act	H.Amdt.376, Lummis	Passed, 238-177	Eliminates funding for environmental mitigation along the southern United States border
H.R. 2017, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act	H.Amdt.378, Carter	Passed, 242-180	Prohibits the use of funds for DHS's Climate Change Adaptation Task Force
H.R. 2018, Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act of 2011	H.Amdt.628, Jackson-Lee	Failed, 167-254	Strikes provisions repealing EPA authority to establish Clean Water Act standards
H.R. 2018, Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act of 2011	H.Amdt.629, Jackson-Lee	Failed, 170-252	Allows the EPA to set pollutant discharge standards
H.R. 2018, Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act of 2011	H.Amdt.630, Moore-Capito	Passed, 268-152	Requires the EPA to analyze the impact of required environmental actions on employment levels and provide public notice and a hearing where impacts on employment or economic activity are found
H.R. 2018, Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act of 2011	H.Amdt.632, Polis	Failed, 191-231	Exempts from the bill permit holders who are significant non-compliers
H.R. 2018, Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act of 2011	H.Amdt.635, Blumenauer	Failed, 183-237	Exempts from the bill waterways that provide flood protection, are valuable fish and wildlife habitat, or are coastal recreation areas
H.R. 2018, Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act of 2011	H.Amdt.636, Carnahan	Failed, 173-247	Restricts the application of the bill in areas declared major disasters due to flooding

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H.R. 2018, Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act of 2011	H.Amdt.633, Connolly	Failed, 181-240	Exempts water bodies that receive federal funds for restoration projects from the limiting provisions in the bill
H.R. 2018, Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act of 2011	Motion to Recommit, McNerney	Failed, 188-238	Preserves EPA authority to set water pollution standards and review permits when pollutants are being discharged into waters that are sources of public drinking water
H.R. 2018, Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act of 2011	Final Passage, Mica	Passed, 239-184	Undermines the Clean Water Act by limiting EPA authority to establish water quality standards for chemicals and other pollutants that harm human health and the environment
H.R. 2021, Jobs and Energy Permitting Act of 2011	H.Amdt.486, Quigley	Failed, 173-251	Strikes a provision limiting the authority of the EPA Environmental Appeals Board over Clean Air Act permits for offshore drilling
H.R. 2021, Jobs and Energy Permitting Act of 2011	H.Amdt.488, Capps	Failed, 180-242	Allows states to set more protective air quality protections for offshore drilling
H.R. 2021, Jobs and Energy Permitting Act of 2011	H.Amdt.481, Speier	Failed, 176-248	Requires air emissions to be measured at the site of offshore drilling rather than onshore
H.R. 2021, Jobs and Energy Permitting Act of 2011	H.Amdt.490, Schrader	Failed, 160-262	Re-establishes the moratorium on the issuance of permits for oil and natural gas drilling off the coast of Oregon
H.R. 2021, Jobs and Energy Permitting Act of 2011	H.Amdt.482, Hastings	Failed, 167-254	Grants EPA authority to regulate emissions of offshore drilling support vessels
H.R. 2021, Jobs and Energy Permitting Act of 2011	H.Amdt.485, Rush	Failed, 172-253	Extends the deadlines for EPA actions related to drilling permits
H.R. 2021, Jobs and Energy Permitting Act of 2011	Final Passage, Gardner	Passed, 253-166	Weakens Clean Air Act protections affecting offshore drilling
H.R. 2112, Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act	H.Amdt.467, Scalise	Passed, 238-179	Blocks the USDA's policy on climate change adaptation

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H.R. 2112, Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act	H.Amdt.477, Flores	Passed, voice vote	Blocks enforcement of Energy Independence and Security Act provisions that prohibit procurement of alternative fuels that have higher lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions than conventional fuel
H.R. 2354, Energy and Water Development Appropriations	H.Amdt.675, Harris	Passed, 236-185	Bans the use of energy efficiency and renewable energy funds for any international program
H.R. 2354, Energy and Water Development Appropriations	H.Amdt.607, Wu	Failed, 196-228	Restores some funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects
H.R. 2354, Energy and Water Development Appropriations	H.Amdt.608, Woodall	Passed, voice vote	Reduces funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects
H.R. 2354, Energy and Water Development Appropriations	H.Amdt.684, Sherman	Passed, voice vote	Bans the use of energy efficiency and renewable funds for any project in China
H.R. 2354, Energy and Water Development Appropriations	H.Amdt.591, Moran (VA)	Failed, 170-250	Preserves EPA authority to use funds to change the definition of waters under the Clean Water Act
H.R. 2354, Energy and Water Development Appropriations	H.Amdt.595, Kaptur	Failed, voice vote	Transfers funds to restore some funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects
H.R. 2354, Energy and Water Development Appropriations	H.Amdt.597, Markey	Failed, 154-266	Restores some funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects
H.R. 2354, Energy and Water Development Appropriations	H.Amdt.599, Connolly	Failed, 173-249	Restores some funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects
H.R. 2354, Energy and Water Development Appropriations	H.Amdt.601, Miller (NC)	Failed, 179-244	Restores some funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects
H.R. 2354, Energy and Water Development Appropriations	H.Amdt.603, Welch	Failed, 123-300	Restores some funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects

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H.R. 2354, Energy and Water Development Appropriations	H.Amdt.605, Tonko	Failed, 149-273	Restores some funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects
H.R. 2354, Energy and Water Development Appropriations	H.Amdt.600, Harris	Passed, voice vote	Reduces funds for cooperative efforts with other nations to promote energy efficiency
H.R. 2354, Energy and Water Development Appropriations	H.Amdt.610, Schiff	Failed, 167-257	Restores funding for Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy
H.R. 2354, Energy and Water Development Appropriations	H.Amdt.612, Garamendi	Failed, 145-276	Restores funding for Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy
H.R. 2354, Energy and Water Development Appropriations	H.Amdt.639, Matheson	Failed, 168-257	Restores funding for DOE environmental cleanups and reduces funding for weapons activities
H.R. 2354, Energy and Water Development Appropriations	H.Amdt.641, Holt	Failed, 164-261	Restores some funding for DOE science activities and reduces funding for weapons activities
H.R. 2354, Energy and Water Development Appropriations	H. Amdt.649, Shimkus	Passed, 297-130	Provides funds for the NRC to process the withdrawn Yucca Mountain license application
H.R. 2354, Energy and Water Development Appropriations	H.Amdt.654, Cohen	Failed, 158-264	Cuts funding for DOE fossil energy research
H.R. 2354, Energy and Water Development Appropriations	H.Amdt.657, Hastings	Passed, voice vote	Blocks the implementation and enforcement of a shoreline management plan developed to protect salmon
H.R. 2354, Energy and Water Development Appropriations	H.Amdt.661, Hastings	Passed, voice vote	Blocks the use of funds to remediate damage associated with the removal of a hydroelectric dam
H.R. 2354, Energy and Water Development Appropriations	H.Amdt.664, Capps	Failed, 152-269	Halts part of the NRC relicensing process for the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant
H.R. 2354, Energy and Water Development Appropriations	H.Amdt.666, Denham	Passed, voice vote	Eliminates funding for restoration and salmon repopulation in the San Joaquin River

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H.R. 2354, Energy and Water Development Appropriations	H.Amdt.670, Flores	Passed, voice vote	Blocks enforcement of Energy Independence and Security Act provisions that prohibit procurement of alternative fuels that have higher lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions than conventional fuel
H.R. 2354, Energy and Water Development Appropriations	H.Amdt.671, Young	Passed, voice vote	Blocks implementation of the weatherization provisions of the Recovery Act, which made weatherization assistance more accessible
H.R. 2354, Energy and Water Development Appropriations	H.Amdt.677, Luetkemeyer	Passed, voice vote	Blocks the Army Corps of Engineers from conducting a study required by statute as part of the Missouri River Recovery Program
H.R. 2354, Energy and Water Development Appropriations	H.Amdt.678, Burgess	Passed, voice vote	Blocks enforcement of industry-supported light bulb efficiency standards
H.R. 2354, Energy and Water Development Appropriations	Final Passage, Frelinghuysen	Passed, 219-196	Blocks agency actions or eliminates funding involving dozens of clean energy and efficiency initiatives, including reducing funding by \$97 million for solar power, \$46 million for clean energy vehicles, \$61 million for green buildings, \$141 million for building weatherization, and \$80 million for advanced energy research
H.R. 2551, Legislative Branch Appropriations Act	H.Amdt.712, Moran (VA)	Failed, 179-234	Bars the use of funds by the legislative branch for polystyrene containers, such as Styrofoam brand containers