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**Committee on Natural Resources**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

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July 20, 2011

The Honorable David Dreier  
Chairman  
Committee on Rules  
United States Capitol, H-312  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Louise Slaughter  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Rules  
1627 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dreier and Ranking Member Slaughter:

As the Ranking Members of the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Energy and Commerce, we call on the Rules Committee to refuse special protections for authorizing provisions included in the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for the coming fiscal year.

As reported by the Committee on Appropriations, the Interior Appropriations measure includes dozens of legislative provisions within the jurisdiction of the Natural Resources Committee and the Energy and Commerce Committee. Inclusion of these legislative provisions in an appropriations bill violates clause 2(b) of Rule XXI of the Rules of the House.

Numerous provisions in the bill are within the jurisdiction of the Natural Resources Committee. For example, Section 118 of the bill amends administrative appeals procedures for grazing on public lands; Section 119 prohibits judicial review of any rule finding that the gray wolf is not a threatened or endangered species; Sections 120 and 415 alter the applicability of the National Environmental Policy Act; Section 414 changes existing law to allow for the export of timber from Alaska; Section 427 extends authorization for the Forest Service Stewardship Contracting program; Section 437 alters the appeals process for certain Forest Service decisions; Section 440 amends current law regarding maintenance fees for certain mining claims; and Section 445 prohibits withdrawal of lands near Grand Canyon National Park.

Chairman Dreier and Ranking Member Slaughter  
July 20, 2011

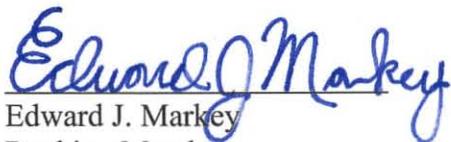
Many provisions fall within the jurisdiction of the Energy and Commerce Committee. Section 431 limits the ability of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to regulate greenhouse gases; Section 441 prohibits EPA from implementing a flexible air permitting program; Section 434 prohibits the regulation of coal combustion waste under the Solid Waste Disposal Act; Section 443 amends the Clean Air Act to relax pollution controls for offshore drilling; Section 444 would interfere with the effective use of EPA's Integrated Risk Information System.

Additionally, amendments were adopted to the bill that attack important public health rules. One amendment would indefinitely block rules that reduce mercury pollution from power plants and address air pollution that crosses state boundaries. Another amendment would stymie implementation of protections from lead exposure.

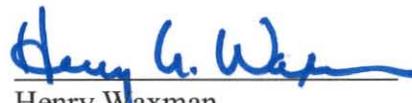
These and all other sections of the Interior Appropriations bill changing existing law, or otherwise legislating, are subject to a point of order. The Rules Committee should honor both the spirit and the letter of the Rules of the House and not include protections for these authorizing provisions in the rule governing debate on the House floor.

The drastic funding cuts contained in this legislation represent an assault on the nation's public health and natural and cultural heritage. The Rules Committee must not allow the bill to also serve as a vehicle for misguided legislative provisions that apparently cannot become law on their own merit.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources



Henry Waxman  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce