

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
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**Statement of Rep. Henry A. Waxman**  
**Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**“The FY2012 EPA Budget”**  
**Subcommittee on Energy and Power**  
**March 11, 2011**

Today, we will compare two visions of EPA’s budget. The difference between them could not be more stark.

The President’s budget is fiscally responsible yet gives the agency the resources it needs to protect public health and the environment.

The Republican budget would decimate the agency and its public health mission.

A common perception is that energy and environmental issues are more regional than partisan. For most of my career that has been true.

But that is no longer true. The Republican Party in Congress has become the anti-environment party. There is no more telling proof than H.R. 1, the Republican budget proposal.

During the debates over the 1990 Clean Air Act, there were both Democratic and Republican environmental champions.

President George H. W. Bush campaigned on strengthening the Clean Air Act. Republicans like Rep. Sherry Boehlert from New York and Senator John Chafee from Rhode Island were close allies and true environmental champions.

And ultimately, after difficult compromises, our regional, bipartisan coalitions were able rally around a bill that passed the House 401 to 25 and the Senate 89 to 10.

But this kind of bipartisanship seems impossible today. Republicans in this Congress have an anti-environment agenda. And as yesterday’s markup of the Upton-Inhofe bill demonstrates, they also have an anti-science agenda.

It is a Republican mantra that they are pursuing the “will of the people.” But that’s not what they are doing. Their anti-science, anti-environment agenda may be the will of Koch Industries, but it is not what American families want.

Americans know that their family’s health and quality of life depend on a clean environment. They know we need a strong EPA to stop oil companies and power companies from poisoning our air and water. They know we need a strong EPA to keep toxic chemicals out of our food supply and away from our children.

But instead of giving EPA the resources the agency needs, Republicans are using the budget process to handcuff the agency.

The Republican budget is the most sweeping and reckless assault on health and the environment that we have seen in decades.

This bill slashes EPA’s funding by almost one-third, denying the agency the resources it needs to carry out:

- the Clean Air Act,
- the Clean Water Act,
- the Safe Drinking Water Act,
- the Food Quality Protection Act, and
- the Toxic Substances Control Act.

Riders in H.R. 1 block EPA from regulating toxic emissions from cement plants. They defund EPA’s efforts to reduce dangerous carbon emissions. And they prevent EPA from protecting water quality in thousands of streams and wetlands, threatening drinking water supplies for millions of Americans.

I am glad we have Administrator Jackson here today, and I look forward to her testimony. She will explain what the implications of the Republican budget would be on her agency.

I hope we will listen. In the weeks ahead, we have time to change course and work together to give EPA the resources it needs to protect public health and the environment.