



Chairman Richard Shelby
 Vice Chairman Patrick Leahy
 Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen
 Ranking Member Nita Lowey

CC: Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan, and Leader Pelosi

November 29, 2018

Dear Chairman Shelby, Ranking Member Leahy, Chairman Frelinghuysen, and Ranking Member Lowey:

As you work toward a deal to fund the remainder of the federal government for Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19), the undersigned public health and medical organizations urge you to fully fund the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and oppose all policy riders – including those that would block, weaken, or delay critical clean air and public health protections.

Over the past several weeks, devastating wildfires in California have produced dangerous smoke that closed schools for days on end. Red tide in Florida led to closed beaches and breathing problems for people nearby. Dangerous levels of PFAS chemicals have been detected in drinking water across the country. For far too many Americans, the health impacts of environmental disasters are clear.

EPA must have the resources it needs to protect families and communities from these threats. We call on you to fully fund the agency for the remainder of FY19. A short-term continuing resolution would make it harder for the agency to fulfill its mission – as would, of course, a government shutdown.

We further call upon you to ensure that all of the outstanding appropriations bills, including Interior and Environment, are free of harmful policy riders. Riders have no place in appropriations legislation and put lives and health at further risk from air pollution and other environmental hazards.

The undersigned organizations urge you to protect the health of your constituents by opposing all riders in bills to fund the federal government for the remainder of FY2019, including any provisions that would endanger public health by weakening the Clean Air Act or hindering EPA's work to clean up harmful air pollution.

Sincerely,

Allergy & Asthma Network

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

American Lung Association

American Public Health Association

Association of Schools and Programs of
Public Health

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

Children's Environmental Health Network

Health Care Without Harm

March of Dimes

National Environmental Health Association

Physicians for Social Responsibility