

March 29, 2019

Dear Member of Congress,

The Clean Budget Coalition, an alliance of labor, scientific, consumer, research, good government, faith, civil rights, community, health, environmental, and public interest groups, writes you to urge FY20 appropriations bills that are free from poison pill policy riders that harm the public.

No appropriations titles, package of bills, or continuing resolutions (should that be deemed the appropriate path to continue funding the government) should move forward if they contain poison pill policy riders that go against the public interest.

Unfortunately, such poison pill riders have existed as favors to corporate and special interests in previous appropriations cycles, and therefore a set of “legacy poison pills” must be removed from the FY20 appropriations bills. We ask that you take that stance as Congress processes the FY20 appropriations bills—keeping out new poison pills that harm the public and removing those that have become embedded.

Poison pill riders are unpopular and dangerous, and the public opposes the abuse of the budget process to roll back public protections. The budget should be funding the things that Americans care about, not undoing essential safeguards. The American people support policies to:

- Ensure safe and healthy food and products;
- Restrain Wall Street abuses;
- Secure our air, land, water and wildlife;
- Safeguard fair and safe workplaces;
- Guard against consumer rip-offs and corporate wrongdoing;
- Defend our campaign finance and election systems;
- Promote economic fairness in banking, housing and business;
- Provide access to justice and fair housing;
- Protect human and civil rights, including the rights of immigrants; and
- Guarantee continued access to vital health care services including comprehensive reproductive health care, among other things.

The public does not support slipping damaging poison pills into must-pass appropriations bills that would undo any of these protections as a means to win approval.

We urge Members of Congress to fully fund important programs and to reject any flawed bills that fail to remove poison pill policy riders that would undo essential public safeguards.

Sincerely,

20/20 Vision  
AFL-CIO  
AFSCME  
Alaska Wilderness Action  
American Association for Justice  
American Bird Conservatory  
Americans for Financial Reform  
Animal Wellness Action

Austistic Self Advocacy Network  
Bend the Arc Jewish Action  
Center for American Progress  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Center for Reproductive Rights  
Center for Science in the Public Interest  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Coalition for Health Funding  
Common Cause  
Communications Workers of America  
Consumer Federation of America  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Democracy 21  
Earthjustice  
Endangered Species Coalition  
GreenLatinos  
Greenpeace USA  
Harrington Investments, Inc.  
Humane Society Legislative Fund  
Impact Fund  
Innovative Green Builders  
The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy  
International Fund for Animal Welfare  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
League of Conservation Voters  
Main Street Alliance  
NARAL Pro-Choice America  
National Association for College Admission Counseling  
National Association of Consumer Advocates  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Coalition for the Homeless  
National Community Reinvestment Coalition  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Employment Law Project  
National Employment Lawyers Association  
National Fair Housing Alliance  
National Low Income Housing Coalition  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Women's Law Center  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
New Jersey Association on Correction  
New Progressive Alliance  
Ocean Conservancy  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
People for the American Way  
People's Action  
Public Citizen  
Public Knowledge  
Rachel Carson Council  
Safe Climate Campaign

SEIU

Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States

Sierra Club

Union of Concerned Scientists

The United State of Women

U.S. PIRG

Voices for Progress

The Wilderness Society

Woodstock Institute