

## **FY 2018 Budget: Fully funded EPA with no anti-environment riders**

Mainers' health, environment, and livelihood rely on Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) programs that reduce pollution in Maine and strengthen our communities and economy. That's why we need a fully-funded EPA for FY18, and a clean spending bill with no anti-environment riders.

There are numerous "live riders" that have passed either the House or Senate version of the budget for fiscal year 2018 and could still be considered for the omni-bus spending bill. While we're opposed to all anti-environment riders, there are a few that are of particular concern for the state of Maine.

**We ask that our Senators do all they can to strip the following riders that threaten our air, water, and wildlife:** *Section numbers apply to House Interior Appropriations Bill (H.R. 3354)*

### **Eliminates Consideration of Carbon Pollution from Burned Biomass (Section 428)**

This provision requires all biomass burned for electricity production to be considered to have zero carbon pollution even though emissions from wood biomass are often higher than those from coal. This language threatens the long-term health of forests by encouraging the burning of trees to generate electricity and worsens climate change by pretending climate-changing emissions don't exist

### **Rolling Back the Clean Water Rule (Section 431)**

This provision would allow EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers to repeal the 2015 Clean Water Rule (CWR) without following laws and processes that require public engagement and scientific analysis. This undermines the Administrative Procedure Act and sets a terrible precedent for future rulemaking. Mainers rely on the CWR to protect our small streams and wetlands from unchecked pollution. The CWR protects the drinking water sources of more than 400,000 Mainers, protects our native species like the brook trout, and protects our lakes, which are a vital resource that generate \$3.5 billion for Maine's economy annually.

### **Blocking Updates to National Ozone Standards (Section 432)**

This provision would permanently block or delay updates to the national ozone standard. Ozone – or smog—causes breathing problems, asthma attacks, and even premature death. This rider contradicts requirements of the Clean Air Act that require review and revision of the standard every 5 years, based on the science. This provision would require that 85% of nonattainment counties under the 2008 standard as of 2014 achieve full compliance before EPA can update the standard. Mainers already suffer from above average rates of asthma and weakening our ozone standards will lead to more asthma attacks and premature deaths for our vulnerable communities.

### **Undermining the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (Section 458)**

A big part of what defines Maine is our rich and abundant wildlife, and the ESA is an essential safety net for imperiled plants, fish, and wildlife. This provision would devastate conservation and recovery efforts for listed species by blocking federal funding for a protected species any time the Forest and Wildlife Service fails to conduct required reviews. The agencies are often prevented from completing these reviews on time due to lack of funding or competing priorities. This provision would leave nearly 1,000 species in limbo, because they would retain their ESA status, but it would block all federal funding for recovery, law enforcement, and consultations.

### **Denying Climate Change Action (Section 456)**

This provision would roll back the Clean Air Act and would block any potential plan to address climate change. This provision would deny all funds to be used on rules pursuant to Section 115 of the Clean Air Act, which refers to enforcement of international air quality and climate agreements. Maine is already seeing the warning signs of climate change, with sea-level rise, beach erosion, and increased temperatures. Maine's cold weather sports such as skiing and ice fishing, our forests, our fishing industry, even our maple syrup industry are at risk, and we should be doing more to address this threat rather than preventing climate action.

### **Blocking Implementation of the BLM Methane Waste Rule (Section 460)**

This rider seeks to block the implementation of BLM's Methane Waste Rule, which requires the oil and gas industry to use cost-effective technologies and practices to reduce venting, flaring, and leaks from oil and gas infrastructure on public lands – protecting taxpayers, public health, and the environment.

### **Repealing the Social Cost of Carbon (Section 463)**

This provision would require the federal government to ignore the economic costs of climate change. These costs, which affect businesses, families, governments and taxpayers, could reach hundreds of billions of dollars through rising healthcare costs, destruction of property, increased food prices, and more.

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