



August 1, 2022

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Oppose S.J. Res. 55 - CRA resolution of disapproval of the Council on Environmental Quality's "National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Regulations Revisions"

Dear Senator,

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) believes that everyone has a right to clean air, clean water, public lands, and a safe climate protected by a just and equitable democracy. Each year, LCV publishes the *National Environmental Scorecard*, which details the voting records of members of Congress on environmental legislation. The *Scorecard* is distributed to LCV members, concerned voters nationwide, and the media.

LCV urges you to vote NO on S.J. Res. 55, a joint resolution of disapproval under the Congressional Review Act (CRA) that would undermine President Biden's restoration of core provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), including requiring agencies to assess climate and cumulative impacts of major federal actions. S.J. Res. 55 stems from the false allegation that NEPA delays the federal project process. This allegation has been refuted by, among others, the Congressional Research Service (CRS), that found delay came from lack of funding, changes in project design, shifting local or state priorities, local opposition, or project complexity and the Department of the Treasury, that pointed to the lack of funds being the biggest hurdle to completing projects.

NEPA is invaluable for both public health and environmental impact analyses as the agencies connect with the public about pending federal decisions such as the permitting of critical infrastructure projects. S.J. Res. 55 would revert the federal government to the illegal Trump administration NEPA rule that aimed to legitimize climate denial and hastily rubber stamp polluting projects.

Having a robust federal environmental review process is crucial to tackle the climate crisis and environmental injustice. Shredding required public input and impact assessments puts low-income and minority communities at greater risk of developing health problems as poorly planned federal projects disproportionately are placed in these communities. To unlock and utilize our best tools to fight against the climate crisis, we must avoid the delay and delegitimization of future federal actions that S.J. Res. 55 would introduce.

For all these reasons, we urge you to oppose S.J. Res. 55, Sen. Sullivan's CRA resolution disapproving of the Biden-Harris administration's restoration of climate review and public input in federal projects and decision-making. LCV will strongly consider including votes on this legislation in the 2022 *Scorecard*. If you would like more information, please reach out to a member of our government relations team.

Sincerely,

Gene Karpinski
President