



September 21, 2022

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support S. 443, the DISCLOSE Act

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 YES on S. 443, the DISCLOSE Act, a long-overdue legislative response to the Supreme Court's shameful *Citizens United v. FEC* decision, which has allowed billions in undisclosed and unlimited dark money to distort American electoral campaigns over the last decade. The DISCLOSE Act is a common-sense proposal to strengthen the ban on foreign money in our elections; require groups spending over \$10,000 in elections or on judicial nominations to disclose big donors (while allowing them to limit disclosure to relevant donations); and expand "stand by your ad" disclosure requirements.

Undisclosed, unlimited political money threatens our environment as well as our democracy. The fossil fuel industry's corrupting influence in politics has been well known at home and abroad for decades. Oil and gas interests have spent nearly a billion dollars in *disclosed* campaign contributions since *Citizens United*. That figure does *not* include massive amounts of undisclosed funds such as the well-documented contributions from the Koch family, which controls the nation's largest privately held oil company, Koch Industries. The Kochs' political spending notably includes at least tens of millions of dollars to organizations that supported the far-right capture of the United States Supreme Court. The Court's far-right majority recently decided *West Virginia v. EPA*, which rewarded the fossil fuel industry's investment by narrowing EPA authority to regulate climate pollution from power plants.

When our democracy is distorted to favor rich and powerful polluters, we all suffer, but none more than communities of color, young people, and low-income people. These are also the groups who stand to lose most from climate change, from environmental injustice, from voter suppression, and from a U.S. Supreme Court hostile to individual rights and self-government. The DISCLOSE Act would not solve every problem in our broken campaign finance system or alone save our precarious democracy, but it contains several major steps to ensure elected officials serve the people, not just deep-pocketed interests including big polluters.

We urge you to support the DISCLOSE Act and will strongly consider including votes on this in our next Scorecard. If you need more information, please reach out to a member of our Government Relations team.

Sincerely,

Gene Karpinski
President