

**Abilenians Against Tenaska • Air Alliance Houston • Alaska Community Action on
Toxics • Appalachian Center • Appalachian Voices • As You Sow • Catawba
Riverkeeper • Center for Biological Diversity • Center for Energy Efficiency &
Renewable Technologies • Chesapeake Climate Action Network • Clean Air
Carolina • Clean Air Task Force • Clean Energy Action • Clean New York • Clean
Power Now • Clean Water Action • Clean Water Network • Clean Water for North
Carolina • Clean Wisconsin • Citizens Against Ruining the Environment-C.A.R.E. •
Citizen Advocates United to Safeguard the Environment, Inc. (CAUSE) • Citizens
Coal Council • Citizens For Health • Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future
(PennFuture) • Colorado Fourteeners Against CCW • The Concerned Citizens of
Giles County LLC • Defenders of Wildlife • Earthjustice • Environment Georgia •
Environmental Integrity Project • Georgians for Smart Energy • Friends of the
Earth • Great Plains Alliance for Clean Energy • Greenpeace • Healthy Child
Healthy World • HealthLink • Heartwood • Idaho Rivers United • Interfaith Power
& Light • Izaak Walton League of America • Kentucky Environmental Foundation •
Kentucky Heartwood • Labadie Environmental Organization • League of
Conservation Voters • Michigan Land Use Institute • Milwaukee Riverkeeper •
Mountain Voices Alliance • Mountain Watershed Association, home of the
Youghiogheny Riverkeeper • Natural Resources Defense Council • Neighbors for
Neighbors • New York Public Interest Research Group • Northern Alaska
Environmental Center • Ohio Citizen Action • Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition •
Our Children's Earth Foundation • Physicians for Social Responsibility • Patuxent
Riverkeeper • Prairie Rivers Network • Respiratory Health Association of
Metropolitan Chicago • Resurrection Bay Conservation Alliance • San Juan Citizens
Alliance • Sierra Club • Southern Alliance for Clean Energy • Southern
Environmental Law Center • Students for Environmental Concerns • Tennessee
Coal Ash Survivors Network • Valley Watch, Inc. • Waterkeeper Alliance • Wenham
Lake Watershed Association • West Virginia Highlands Conservancy • Western
Environmental Law Center • Women's Voices for the Earth**

February 15, 2011

RE: Vote No on Riders from Congressmen Cliff Stearns and David McKinley on Coal Ash to
the Full Year Continuing Appropriations Act (HR 1)

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our millions of members, activists and supporters across the country, we are
writing today to urge you to vote "No" on riders from Congressmen Cliff Stearns and David
McKinley restricting EPA's authority to implement strong safeguards on coal ash.

Coal ash is a dangerous waste generated by burning coal for energy, and it contains many
hazardous metals and chemicals like arsenic, lead, hexavalent chromium and selenium.
Despite its hazardous characteristics, coal ash is not subject to federal regulations, and
state laws governing coal ash disposal are usually weak or non-existent.

Across the country, millions of tons of coal ash are being stored in unlined ponds, landfills
and mines. Many of these sites lack adequate safeguards leaving nearby communities at
risk from potential large scale disasters, like the massive coal ash spill in Tennessee in
2008, and from gradual yet equally dangerous contamination as coal ash toxins seep into
drinking water sources.

As the nation's leader on clean air and water issues, EPA must address this problem. The public health and environmental hazards from unsafe coal ash dumping have been known for many years, including increased risk of cancer, learning disabilities, neurological disorders, birth defects, reproductive failure, asthma and other sickness.

EPA has the authority and responsibility to put in place common-sense rules that protect human health and the environment by controlling the disposal of dry coal ash and phasing out the dumping of wet ash in unsafe ponds. We ask Congress to support the EPA as they move forward with a coal ash rule that is based on the best science and that provides the same federally enforceable standards for all communities. Everyday, Americans face the danger of living with toxic coal ash in their backyards, threatening to poison their communities.

The time is now to protect them. Please vote "No" on the amendments from Congressmen Stearns and McKinley that would stop EPA from implementing consistent and enforceable safeguards that will protect human health and the environment by ensuring safe disposal of coal ash across the nation.

Cc: 112th House of Representatives