

Nov. 4, 2016

Dear President Obama and Members of Congress,

We, the 260 undersigned organizations, write to ask you to oppose any FY 2017 omnibus or minibus funding packages that include harmful ideological policy riders and urge you to finish the budget package this year.

Budget bills have been used before to undermine essential safeguards through policy riders – provisions that address extraneous policy issues, and are slipped into funding bills to win approval as part of must-pass funding legislation. Last year, hundreds of these policy provisions were proposed as a part of the omnibus process, and in this year’s budget process, some members of Congress have already insisted on ideological riders.

Ideological riders are measures that the public opposes, and that the president would likely veto as standalone legislation. The American people support policies to restrain Wall Street abuses and ensure safe and healthy food and products, to protect our air, land, water and wildlife, to ensure safe and fair workplaces, to prevent consumer rip-offs and corporate wrongdoing, to create fair rules of the road for our campaign finance system, to provide access to justice, and to ensure continued access to vital health care services.

Ideological riders are intended to advance the priorities of special interests, and they have become the “new earmarks.” However, in many ways, they are actually far worse than the old district-specific earmarks, because they have vastly greater reach and nationwide consequences for the American people.

We urge members of Congress to oppose flawed funding proposals that include ideological policy riders and to finish this budget this year. We further urge the administration in the strongest possible terms to oppose any funding bills that have such riders before signing any final FY17 funding package.

Sincerely,

9to5, National Association of Working  
Women  
A Community Voice - Louisiana  
ABG Consulting LLC  
Ability Chicago Info  
Access Center for Independent Living  
Action for Boston Community  
Development  
AFL-CIO  
AFSCME  
Agnes' Arms Foundation  
AIDS Alabama, Inc.  
Alaska Wilderness League  
Alfred E. Smith Resident Association  
Alliance of Cambridge Tenants (ACT)  
American Association for Justice

American Federation of Teachers, AFL-  
CIO  
Americans for Financial Reform  
Annabelle Foundation  
Antioch Urban Ministries, Inc. dba  
Matthew's Place  
Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey  
ANU-CHANCE Ministry  
Area Housing Authority of the County of  
Ventura  
Arizona Housing Alliance  
Auburn Housing Authority  
Barb Lamphere Consulting  
Berrien County HRN  
Bibleway Community Action  
Blueprints Consulting, LLC

Bucks County Housing Development Corporation  
Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition  
Burns Tenant Council  
Butler Perez Associates  
California Renters Legal Advocacy and Education Fund  
CARE 66  
CASA of Oregon  
Catholic Community Services  
CCBHC, Santa Ana, CA  
Celebrate Outreach  
Center for American Progress  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Center for Independent Living Options  
Center for Progressive Reform  
Center for Science in the Public Interest  
Central New York Citizens in Action, Inc.  
Century 21 Hometown Realty  
Charleston Housing Authority  
Chicago Consumer Coalition  
Church Women United in New York State  
Citizens' Environmental Coalition, New York  
Clarksburg-Harrison Regional Housing Authority  
Clean Water Action  
Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Coalition to Stop Gun Violence  
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless  
Comite de Bienestar  
Committee to Support the Antitrust Laws  
Community Alliance of Tenants  
Community and Shelter Assistance Corp.  
Community Frameworks  
Community Housing Fund  
Community Justice Project  
Community Stabilization Project  
Connecticut Housing Coalition  
Consumer Action  
Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Orange Co.  
Consumer Federation of America  
Consumers for Auto Reliability & Safety  
Conversant Consulting  
Cornerstone Associates

Cornerstone Housing Inc.  
Corporate Accountability International  
CREDO  
Crescent Manor  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Democracy 21  
Disabled In Action of Metropolitan NY  
Eastern Eight Community Development Corporation  
Economic Policy Institute Policy Center  
Empire State Consumer Project  
Empower Missouri  
Endangered Species Coalition  
Environmental Investigation Agency  
Episcopal Retirement Services Affordable Living  
Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana  
Family Emergency Shelter Coalition (FESCO)  
Farmers Union Senior Housing  
FESCO Family Shelter  
First & Franklin Presbyterian Church  
Florida Alliance for Consumer Protection  
Florida Supportive Housing Coalition  
Free Press Action Fund  
Freeport Housing Trust  
Friends of the Earth  
Fundors Together to End Homelessness  
Georgia Alliance to End Homelessness  
Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness  
Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center  
Greater Syracuse Tenants Network  
Greenpeace  
Grounded Solutions Network  
Grow San Francisco  
Habitat for Humanity Chicago  
Habitat for Humanity of Gallatin Valley  
Habitat for Humanity of New York State  
Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake  
Habitat for Humanity Virginia  
HACSA  
Hancock Resource Center  
Homeless & Housing Coalition of Kentucky  
Homeless Solutions, Inc.  
Homeowners Against Deficient Dwellings  
Homestead Affordable Housing, Inc.

Homeword  
Housing Action Illinois  
Housing and Community Development  
Network of New Jersey  
Housing Authority of Maysville  
Housing Authority of the City of  
Columbia, Missouri  
Housing Authority of the City of Nevada,  
Missouri  
Housing Authority of the City of Pocatello  
Housing Authority of the City of Santa  
Barbara  
Housing Works Rhode Island  
Inner City Law Center (Los Angeles, CA)  
Innovative Green Builders & WDT  
Development, LLC  
Innovative Housing Solutions  
Integra Home Counseling, Inc.  
Interfaith Emergency Shelter Network  
International Union, United Automobile,  
Aerospace, & Agricultural Implement  
Workers of America (UAW)  
JCTOD Outreach, Inc. dba Johnson Park  
Center (JPC)  
Jericho Project  
JOIN Development  
JOVIS  
Kauai Habitat for Humanity, Inc.  
Kentucky Equal Justice Center  
KY Senior Citizens Apartments  
Lafayette Habitat for Humanity  
Lake County Crisis Center  
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights  
Under Law  
Leadership Conference for Civil and  
Human Rights  
League of Conservation Voters  
Lexington Community Land Trust  
Main Street Alliance  
Maine Affordable Housing Coalition  
Many Mansions  
Marine Conservation Institute  
Maryland United for Peace and Justice  
Massachusetts Consumers Council  
Meals on Wheels of Lehigh County  
Metrocare Services  
Metropolitan Development and Housing  
Agency, Nashville, TN  
Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness

Michigan Disability Housing Workgroup  
Mid-South Peace and Justice Center  
Miriam's Kitchen  
Monarch Housing Associates  
Motivation Community Development  
Muscatine Municipal Housing Agency  
NARAL Pro-Choice America  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of  
the Good Shepherd  
National Association for College  
Admission Counseling  
National Association of Consumer  
Advocates  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Coalition for the Homeless  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Education Association  
National Employment Law Project  
National Fair Housing Alliance  
National Health Care for the Homeless  
Council  
National Law Center on Homelessness &  
Poverty  
National Low Income Housing Coalition  
National Partnership for Women &  
Families  
National WIC Association  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Neighbor Works Umpqua  
Neighborhood Development Associates  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social  
Justice  
New Jersey Association on Correction  
New Jim Crow Movement  
New Level Community Development  
Corporation  
New Mexico Coalition to End  
Homelessness  
Newtown Action Alliance  
Nixon Peabody  
Oakland Tenants Union  
Ohio CDC Association  
Orange County United Way  
Organization Name  
Park Ridge Housing Initiative  
Patriotic Millionaires  
Pennsylvania National Organization for  
Women  
People For the American Way

Peoples Action  
People's Self-Help Housing, Inc.  
PLACE  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Pleasant View Gardens Resident Council  
Plymouth Housing Group  
Positive Reset Mental Health  
Progressive City  
Project Live, Inc.  
Properties Of Colorado  
Protect All Children's Environment  
Providence Housing Corporation  
Public Citizen  
Public Justice  
Public Justice Center  
Public Knowledge  
Rebuilding Together Central Ohio  
Redding Pilgrim House  
Retirement Housing Foundation  
Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless  
ROSE Community Development  
Saad & Saad LLP  
San Francisco Bay Area Renters  
Federation  
Seattle Human Services Coalition  
SEIU  
Sierra Club  
Sitka Community Land Trust  
Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity  
Sound Thinking LLC  
Southern Indiana Center for Independent  
Living  
Spokane Low Income Housing  
Consortium  
Springfield Housing Authority  
St Ambrose of Woodbury Social Justice  
Committee  
States United to Prevent Gun Violence  
Summit Independent Living  
Tenants Union of Washington State  
The Arc  
The Arc of North Carolina  
The Arc: Community Advocates  
The Architects Collective  
The Bright Lines Project  
The Family Place  
The Haven  
The Housing Assistance Corporation  
The Housing Authority of the City of Blue

Ridge; Blue Ridge, GA  
The Kitchen, Inc.  
The Summit Group  
The Wilderness Society  
The Wishcamper Companies, Inc.  
Toledo Area Jobs with Justice & Interfaith  
Worker Justice Coalition  
Town of Hamburg, New York  
Twin Pines Housing Trust  
U.S. PIRG  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
Union United  
United Steelworkers  
United Support & Memorial For  
Workplace Fatalities  
Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition  
Virginia Housing Alliance  
Voices for Progress  
Walker County Coalition for the Homeless  
Washington Low Income Housing  
Alliance  
Washtenaw County Community Mental  
Health  
Wayne Smith & Associates  
Westbrook Development Corporation  
Wichita Habitat for Humanity  
Wild River Realty, Inc.  
Wildlife Conservation Society  
Winterberg Real Estate  
Workplace Fairness  
YWCA - Greater Capital Region