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
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