Nov. 15, 2023

Dear Members of Congress,

Re: Vote NO on Anti-Democracy Riders on H.R. 5893 - Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024

We, the undersigned organizations, urge you to remove the anti-democratic poison pill policy riders from the Fiscal Year 2024 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) appropriations bill due for consideration in the House of Representatives this week.

The existing and proposed radical riders would deeply damage our already fragile democracy by restricting access to voting, disarming our defenses against foreign influence over U.S. elections, and severely compromising law enforcement anti-corruption investigations.

Among the poison pill riders already written into the CJS appropriations bill and the anti-democratic amendments proposed by House Republicans are those that would:

- Block the Department of Justice from acting to protect voting rights when state legislatures or local governments adopt discriminatory redistricting maps (Sec. 582);
- Defund the President’s Executive Order Promoting Access to Voting (Proposed amendment by Rep. Tenney);
- Defund FBI investigations into malign foreign influence operations targeting the United States, including cyber attacks against voting infrastructure, criminal efforts to suppress voting, and illegal campaign contributions (Proposed amendment by Rep. Biggs);
- Compromise the integrity of anti-corruption law enforcement investigations by forcing the Department of Justice and the FBI to expose the identities of confidential informants to Members of Congress who ask for them (Proposed amendment by Rep. Fry); and

The public does not support the inclusion of damaging policy riders in must-pass appropriations bills, and any previously included measures doing so must be removed. Earlier this year, 100 public interest groups sent a letter to Congress calling for clean spending bills without any poison pill policy riders and for ample funding for vital programs and agencies to advance the public interest. It is disappointing to see House Republicans blatantly ignore the will of the people.

We urge you to vote to remove all of the anti-democratic policy riders from the CJS appropriations bill and take action to strengthen – not weaken – a democracy for all the people.
Signed,

Action Together NEPA  
American Federation of Teachers  
Arab American Institute Foundation  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC  
Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote)  
Brennan Center for Justice  
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW)  
Clean Elections Texas  
DemCast USA  
Earthjustice  
End Citizens United//Let America Vote Action Fund  
Endangered Species Coalition  
Fair Elections Center  
Indivisible Santa Fe  
LatinoJustice PRLDEF  
League of Conservation Voters  
Missionary Oblates  
National Action Network  
National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC)  
National Wildlife Federation  
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
People Power United  
Public Citizen  
Revolving Door Project  
Secure Elections Network  
Seventh Generation Interfaith Coalition for Responsible Investment  
Shareholder Proposals  
Sierra Club  
Take On Wall Street  
The Workers Circle  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
Verified Voting  
Voices for Progress  
Voto Latino  
Western Watersheds Project  
WV Citizen Action