

**Center for Biological Diversity \* Defenders of Wildlife \* Earthjustice  
Environment America \* Natural Resources Defense Council \* Oceana \*  
Public Citizen \* Sierra Club \* Southern Environmental Law Center  
The Wilderness Society \* Union of Concerned Scientists**

March 23, 2012

Dear Senator:

On behalf of our millions of members and online activists, we urge you to support Sen. Menendez's Repeal Big Oil Tax Subsidies Act (S.2204). This bill not only extends many critical investments in clean energy, but rightly repeals billions of dollars in tax giveaways the biggest oil companies receive at the expense of taxpayers.

Despite being well established and posting record breaking profits during an economic downturn, big oil companies continue to reap billions of dollars in unnecessary tax benefits from taxpayers. Unless these giveaways are repealed, Americans will continue to pay more to oil companies on tax day. At a time when Congress is examining every dollar spent, it makes no sense to send taxpayer funds to an industry that not only does not need it, but whose product pollutes our air, land and water every day. This bill gives Congress an opportunity to make a better investment in our nation's energy future.

Sen. Menendez's bill uses the tax savings from repealing these giveaways to fully fund a number of critical clean energy incentives, including the extension of the renewable energy production tax credit, the 48C manufacturing tax credit, the 1603 Treasury Program, the efficient new homes tax credit and the efficient appliances tax credit. Additionally, this bill extends the cellulosic biofuel producer credit, allows for the inclusion of algae in biofuel incentives and expands the 48C investment tax credit to offshore wind. These are some of the most crucial provisions our country can implement to build on current investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency. These incentives help level the playing field for developing clean technologies, aid American companies' ability to compete around the world and help deliver needed incentives to improve energy diversity and reduce our addiction to oil, while improving our environment.

We do not support all of the provisions in the bill and we urge that those provisions that promote the use of coal and other dirty fuels be removed as the legislative process proceeds. However, on balance, the bill is an important step forward in continuing the growth of our nation's clean energy economy, while ending giveaways to well-established and highly profitable oil companies.

Once again, we urge you to support the Repeal Big Oil Subsidies Act, S.2204.

Sincerely,

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