

Defenders of Wildlife • Earthjustice • National Wildlife Federation • Sierra Club • The Wilderness Society • The Wildlife Society • World Wildlife Fund

July 14, 2010

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the above-signed organizations, and the millions of members they represent, we urge you to **OPPOSE** McClintock amendment 105 that would strike wildlife provisions in Sec. 238 of the CLEAR Act.

On April 20th Deepwater Horizon Oil Rig exploded killing 11 men and triggering the worst oil spill in U.S. history. Since then, millions of gallons of oil have contaminated the Gulf of Mexico. The magnitude and seriousness of the Deepwater Horizon disaster has profiled the inherent dangers of oil development. For too long the risks to human health, wildlife and local economies have been under-regulated or down played in the pursuit of more oil. The reality remains, however, that in our oceans or on land oil drilling can have very serious and long-term impacts.

We need clear guidance and practical standards across the country to ensure that economic and wildlife implications of energy development are accounted for as government proceeds with development and other uses. The following key provisions of Sec 238 provide for:

- The use of state-of-the-art scientific advances in monitoring and analysis, developed by scientists within the Agriculture and Interior Departments, for cost effective and efficient assessment of wildlife sustainability.
- A wildlife sustainability standard that is both effective and practical.
- The development of a monitoring program in consultation with the state fish and wildlife agencies, creating a critically necessary partnership to achieve fish and wildlife sustainability.
- Natural resources management that is grounded in sound science by statute and therefore will not subject to significant inconsistencies between changing administrations.

Sec. 238 would help ensure that energy production and other forms of development on public lands be undertaken in a responsible manner, consistent with multiple use objectives of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the National Forest Management Act and compatible with the maintenance of habitat and wildlife values which in turn are vital to maintaining key social and economic benefits associated with hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing and tourism. Sec. 238 will help avoid controversy and provide the planning process with the legitimacy afforded to transparent, science-based decisions.

In the aftermath of the BP gulf oil disaster, as well as the treatment of wildlife values throughout the previous administration, it is clear that wildlife cannot simply be dealt with as an afterthought to energy development activities. Sec. 238 of the CLEAR Act includes effective, practical and cost efficient planning and monitoring guidance which gives wildlife a seat at the table at the planning stage, before it is too late.

We urge you to **OPPOSE** McClintock amendment 105 to strike Sec. 238.