

**Earthjustice * Environment America * Environmental Defense Fund
Gasp * Institute for Policy Integrity * Interfaith Power & Light
League of Conservation Voters * National Parks Conservation Association
Natural Resources Defense Council * Oil Change International
Sierra Club * Union of Concerned Scientists**

November 29, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Chair
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva:

On behalf of our organizations and millions of members and supporters from across the United States, we urge you to oppose H.R. 3117, the so-called “Transparency and Honesty in Energy Regulations Act of 2017” and reject any legislative attempts to weaken, minimize or eliminate the requirement that agencies factor in the social cost of greenhouse gas pollutants that contribute to human-induced climate change. This bill would manipulate agency analyses to undervalue sensible options to protect Americans against climate change.

Economists and technical experts have developed a tool to measure the harm in dollars of increased carbon pollution – known as the social cost of carbon (SCC). The state-of-the-art SCC estimates were developed through a transparent and rigorous process that included experts across a dozen federal agencies and allowed for repeated public comment.

Weakening or eliminating the appropriate use of the social cost of carbon as a tool for decision makers and federal agencies would ignore the sobering cost of health, environmental and economic impacts of extreme weather, rising temperatures, intensifying smog, and other impacts. These costs, which affect businesses, families, governments and taxpayers, could reach hundreds of billions of dollars through rising health care costs, destruction of property, increased food prices, and more. Failing to properly account for such damages will result in flawed policy decisions divorced from economically sound information that protects Americans against these harms.

HR 3117 would go beyond the recent Trump Administration Executive Order 13783 to:

- Legislate that agencies ignore or drastically undervalue the cost of climate change by creating a wide-ranging restriction on the appropriate use of the social cost of carbon (and analogous estimates for methane and nitrous oxide). This includes any existing or future estimates.
- Tie the hands of future decision makers in responding to changing circumstances on what is a very technical process, informed by up-to-date analysis.
- Result in government decision making that fails to adequately account for the costly damages of climate change.

For these reasons we urge you to oppose HR 3117 and all attempts to undervalue the impacts of climate change.

Respectfully,

Earthjustice
Environment America
Environmental Defense Fund
Gasp
Institute for Policy Integrity
Interfaith Power & Light
League of Conservation Voters
National Parks Conservation Association
Natural Resources Defense Council
Oil Change International
Sierra Club
Union of Concerned Scientists

cc: House Committee on Natural Resources