

End Polluter Welfare Act of 2015

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN)

At a time of rising global temperatures and increasing threats to our nation's social safety net, it makes no sense for Congress to continue giving away taxpayer money to the highly profitable and highly polluting fossil fuel industry.

This bill abolishes dozens of tax loopholes, subsidies, and other special interest giveaways littered throughout the federal code to save taxpayers over \$135 billion over the next ten years. Between 2010 and 2014, the oil, coal, gas, utility, and natural resource extraction industries spent \$1.8 billion on lobbying, much of it in defense of these giveaways.

Some examples of the giveaways that the End Polluter Welfare Act would put an end to include:

- **Ending Oil, Gas, and Coal Tax Breaks:** repeals dozens of loopholes and tax subsidies throughout the federal tax code that benefit oil, natural gas, and coal special interests, saving more than \$130 billion over the next decade.
- **Ensuring Taxpayers Get a Fair Return On Energy Resources Owned by the American People:** ends the loss of billions of dollars in forgone royalties by recouping royalties from offshore drilling in public waters, updating below-market royalty rates for oil and gas production on federal lands, and ensuring competitive bidding and leasing practices for coal development on federal lands.
- **Prioritizing Clean Energy in Federally-Supported Research and Development Activities:** channels federal research activities at the Department of Energy, ARPA-E and other agencies towards clean energy solutions and away from fossil fuels, which should be funded by industry, not taxpayers.

Ending polluter welfare is fiscally responsible and will protect the health of our families and the planet by reducing pollution. It also allows us to make responsible investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies, help transition us away from the high-carbon economy of the past towards a sustainable, low-carbon economy of the future.

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