

May 13, 2011

Honorable Scott Brown  
2400 JFK Federal Building  
15 New Sudbury Street  
Boston, MA 02203

Dear Senator Brown,

We are writing to express our grave disappointment with your votes to block the EPA from protecting public health and the misleading way you have handled the ensuing reaction, including but not limited to your guest editorial in the May 4, 2011 Boston Herald.

In the last two months you have voted twice for legislation that if enacted would severely endanger public health. Your vote for the McConnell amendment to the small business bill would have barred the US EPA from taking action to reduce carbon pollution. In January 2008, President George W. Bush's EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson explained in a letter to the President that the science shows these pollutants endanger public health and welfare. [1]

The EPA's findings include the determination that one of the effects of current and future carbon pollution is to "worsen regional ground-level ozone pollution. Exposure to ground level ozone has been linked to respiratory health problems ranging from decreased lung function and aggravated asthma to increased emergency department visits, hospital admissions, and even premature death." [2]

Your claim that your vote to prevent EPA had nothing to do with children's health or sick children is therefore unjustifiable. The US EPA clearly identified asthma as one of the diseases that growing carbon dioxide levels will exacerbate. Thus, the League of Women Voters was scientifically correct in choosing to portray a child asthma victim in its ad criticizing your vote.

Further, your claim that your vote was an attempt to prevent EPA "overreach" is similarly untenable. The US Supreme Court, ruling in a lawsuit brought by your own state against the EPA when the EPA failed to take action, ruled that the Clean Air Act applies to carbon pollution and obligates the EPA to act to reduce pollutants it determines to pose a threat to public health.

Sadly, the McConnell amendment is not the first vote you have cast in support of preventing EPA from taking action required to protect public health. You voted in support of HR 1, the Senate budget bill that some organizations have described as the "Worst Environmental Bill" ever for slashing the EPA's budget by 30% and for including of 19 riders to block the EPA and the Interior Department from carrying out laws to protect public health and the environment .

HR 1 would have impeded the EPA's ability to protect our drinking water and recreational waterways from toxic contamination and toxic slime; it would have stopped the EPA from reducing toxic air pollution that causes cancer, developmental disorders and other severe health effects. HR 1 included a provision specifically barring the EPA from reducing toxic pollution from cement kilns, which are the nation's third-largest source of airborne mercury, a toxic brain

poison which is a particular threat to unborn and young children's ability to develop normal brains and nervous systems. HR 1 would have also blocked the US EPA from taking action to reduce carbon pollution. [3]

These votes contradict your claim to "support a clean environment."

The people of Massachusetts have a right to expect that their interests be represented when their elected officials vote, and have a right to a serious discourse on matters that affect their health and welfare as broadly as does this issue. You have failed to do both of these things.

Sincerely,

Berkshire Environmental Action Team  
(BEAT)  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Clean Water Action  
Coalition on the Environment and Jewish  
Life COEJL), Boston chapter  
Conservation Law Foundation  
Earthjustice  
Endangered Species Coalition  
Energy Action Coalition  
Environment Massachusetts  
Environment Northeast  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Environmental League of Massachusetts  
Friends of the Earth  
Greenpeace USA  
League of Conservation Voters  
League of United Latin American Citizens

Massachusetts Climate Action Network  
National Audubon Society  
Natural Resources Defense Council Action  
Fund  
New England Conference United Methodist  
Women  
Ocean River Institute  
People for the Environment  
Rachel's Network  
The Sierra Club, Massachusetts Chapter  
Toxics Action Center Campaigns  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
UU Mass Action  
The Wilderness Society  
Women's Community Cancer Project  
World Wildlife Fund  
Worthy Causes, Inc.  
350.org

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[1] EPA Administrator Stephan Johnson letter to President Bush:  
[http://democrats.energycommerce.house.gov/sites/default/files/documents/EnclosureLetter\\_PresidentfromStephenJohnson\\_2.8.2011\\_2.pdf](http://democrats.energycommerce.house.gov/sites/default/files/documents/EnclosureLetter_PresidentfromStephenJohnson_2.8.2011_2.pdf)

[2] US EPA fact sheet: [http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/endangerment/downloads/EndangermentFinding\\_Health.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/endangerment/downloads/EndangermentFinding_Health.pdf)

[3] "Anti-Environmental Riders on H.R. 1" fact sheet: <http://bit.ly/mILRCM>.