



For Immediate Release

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Biden's Debt-Deal Sacrifices the Environment, Youth, Those on the Frontlines of Environmental & Social Suffering

Statement from: Maya K. van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and Founder of the national Green Amendments For The Generations movement

The “Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023” is a colossal abuse of power and a gift giveaway to industry and conservative political interests at the expense of real people, communities, our environment and the safety of future generations

As written, the industry and conservative, political, sweetheart deal will undermine environmental protection and the safety of people by freezing nondefense spending for the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of the Interior thereby minimizing their ability to ensure people have the quality air, water and environments they need for healthy, quality lives; significantly overhauling and undermining the benefits of the National Environmental Policy Act in order to undermine environmental reviews and protections thereby preventing the information government officials need to ensure that industry, business and economic development ensures environmental and community protection while seeking to achieve their business and profit goals; and will grease the wheels for the climate-devastating, fossil fuel Mountain Valley Pipeline, a project that is currently stalled and unlikely ever to be built save for the political maneuvering and dealmaking such as we see here. This debt-ceiling deal takes away even the modest protections and recently secured benefits for the environment, for young people feeling the crush of massive student debt, and for communities on the front lines of environmental desecration.

President Biden and those who back this deal are giving away the health, sanctity, and safety of present and future generations – it is an unacceptable giveaway to powerful political and industry interests.

We have heard lots of talk about the importance and power of utilizing the 14th amendment to ensure America's debts are paid – the President should be using this constitutional tool to protect Americans and the environment we all need to thrive.