



March 2018

Topline Message for H.R. 1119 and H.R. 1917

SENSE AND BRICK: DIRTY AIR BILLS THAT ATTACK PUBLIC HEALTH

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Democratic Staff

H.R. 1119, the SENSE Act, and H.R. 1917, the BRICK Act, are part of a multipronged effort by Republicans to undermine the commonsense safeguards found in the Clean Air Act (CAA) in order to give special breaks to polluters at the expense of public health.

Under these dirty air bills, Republicans make it easier for polluting corporations to contaminate the air in our neighborhoods, boosting profits for their allies, while selling out our children's health and our future.

SENSE gives waste coal plants a free pass on critical public health protections that keep mercury and other toxins out of the air.

- Waste coal facilities would be able to emit more than their fair share of dangerous pollution like arsenic, heavy metals, and acid gases, without ever cleaning up their act.
- Republicans want to allow waste coal power plants to pollute with impunity, which puts the health and safety of those nearby and downwind in jeopardy.

Section 2 of BRICK would indefinitely delay pollution standards for brick and clay plants, until all litigation has concluded.

- Brick and clay plants are major sources of toxic air pollutants like hydrogen fluoride, hydrogen chloride, and hazardous metals – pollutants that are associated with a variety of acute and chronic health effects, including cancer.
- By throwing out the existing judicial process, Republicans are giving polluters an incentive to “run the clock” on frivolous litigation, to put off ever controlling their pollution.

Section 3 of BRICK delays pollution standards for new wood-fueled heaters that have not been updated in nearly 30 years.

- Wood smoke contains fine particle pollution, carbon monoxide, benzene, formaldehyde, and other toxic pollutants associated with increased asthma attacks, heart attacks, and premature death.
- Republicans are picking winners and losers: rewarding companies that refused to clean up their dirty and inefficient products, while punishing innovative companies that invested in developing cleaner and more efficient technologies for wood heaters.
- Passing this bill allows dirty products to remain in operation for decades into the future, resulting in tons of additional pollution, and putting the health of our children and future generations at risk.

The SENSE and BRICK Acts represent another attempt by Republicans to put the wishes and profits of polluters before the health and safety of Americans.

Attacking clean air protections with these bills makes it easier for corporate polluters to threaten our children's health and sell out their future.

VOTE NO on H.R. 1119 and H.R. 1917.