

10 Things You'll Learn from
“Reckless: The Political Assault on the American Environment”
by Bob Deans, NRDC Action Fund

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MOBILIZING AMERICA FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

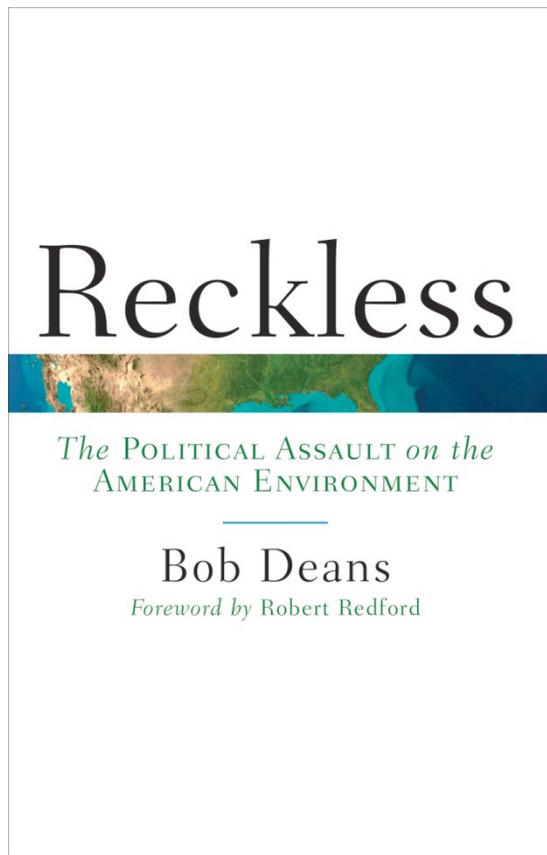
1. Since Republicans regained control of the House of Representatives in 2010, the body has **voted more than 200 times** to undermine environmental safeguards or delay, water down or block new rules needed to address emerging threats.

2. This is **the worst legislative assault in history** against the common sense protections we all depend on to defend our environment and health, and it's putting the country at risk.

3. The votes have **weakened or set back protections that defend our air, water, wildlife and lands** and that safeguard special American places from the Appalachian Mountains to the Gulf of Mexico, from the Great Plains to the Chesapeake Bay.

4. **The American people didn't ask for this environmental rampage** - eight in ten want environmental protections strengthened or left alone - **but someone else did: the corporate polluters** who profit most when others pay the price of the pollution they create.

5. These industries - oil and gas, coal, owners of industrial incinerators, cement factories, chemical companies and more - spend hundreds of millions of dollars each year lobbying our officials in Washington and **pumping up the campaign war chests of politicians who advocate a smokestack agenda** on Capitol Hill.



6. **Safeguarding the environment is bipartisan work.** Our foundational environmental laws - the Clean Air Act, the Endangered Species Act, and, the granddaddy of them all, the National Environmental Policy Act - were all passed by overwhelming majorities from both parties and signed by a Republican president: Richard Nixon.

7. Another Republican president - Theodore Roosevelt - was **the greatest environmentalist in our history**, establishing some of the first federally protected waters and lands in a system that now safeguards more than 635 million acres of national parks, forest, refuges and other special places for our children.

8. **This is not about jobs.** Dirty air and water don't create jobs, but cleaning up our environment does. Some 1.7 million Americans work every day to clean up or reduce pollution in an industry worth some \$300 billion a year. Americans export more than \$40 billion worth of environmental equipment and services each year - more than 25 percent more than we import.

9. **It's About Profits.** Corporate polluters make more money when they don't have to clean up the mess they make. That doesn't reduce the costs of pollution: it simply forces the rest of us to pay those costs by putting up with a dirty environment and its impact on our health. We think that's wrong. That's why we support responsible public oversight that holds companies to account for the pollution they create.

10. That's why **corporate polluters have bankrolled the tea party movement** to the tune of scores of millions of dollars, paying for rallies, buses, town hall meetings, phone banks and more, in order to hijack grassroots activists and link their calls for smaller government to industry demands to eviscerate environmental protections.

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