

Senate Democrats CRA Letter Summary
May 8, 2025

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Minority Whip Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), along with 18 other Senate Democrats, signed a [letter](#) written to Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-S.D.) and Majority Whip John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) warning against overruling the Senate Parliamentarian’s decision that a Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolution targeting EPA waivers granted to California is not eligible for expedited Senate procedures.

The letter stresses that the Senate Parliamentarian relied on the opinion of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) that three Clean Air Act preemption waivers for the state of California do not qualify as “rules,” and therefore cannot be struck down by Congress under the CRA process. If the Senate votes against the Parliamentarian and the GAO, it will override fifty years of agency practice and constitute a “procedural nuclear option.” Senate Republicans would then fully weaponize the CRA process to invalidate decades of agency actions previously not considered rules and open the door for normal legislative processes to be bypassed by future majorities.

Furthermore, overruling the Parliamentarian is unnecessary, because the EPA could use the normal administrative process to withdraw a Clean Air Act waiver, as the Trump administration did in 2019. The Senate should not create long-term institutional risk for short-term political gains.

Below is a list of all signatories:

California

Sen. Alex Padilla (D)

Connecticut

Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D)

Delaware

Sen. Chris Coons (D)

Hawaii

Sen. Brian Schatz (D)

Illinois

Sen. Dick Durbin (D)

Massachusetts

Sen. Ed Markey (D)

Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D)

Minnesota

Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D)

New Hampshire

Sen. Maggie Hassan (D)

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D)

New Mexico

Sen. Martin Heinrich (D)

New York

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D)

Sen. Chuck Schumer (D)

Oregon

Sen. Jeff Merkley (D)

Sen. Ron Wyden (D)

Rhode Island

Sen. Jack Reed (D)

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D)

Virginia

Sen. Mark Warner (D)

Washington

Sen. Maria Cantwell (D)

Sen. Patty Murray (D)