

September 22, 2011

The Honorable Lamar Smith  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rob Portman  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Howard Coble  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Collin Peterson  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mark Pryor  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representatives Smith, Coble and Peterson, and Senators Portman, Collins and Pryor:

The undersigned groups strongly support your introduction of the Regulatory Accountability Act of 2011. Your bipartisan support for this bill makes clear that the need to update the 65 year old regulatory process transcends party affiliation.

Recognizing the precarious condition of America's economy and continued weakness in job creation, our members believe that regulations need to be narrowly tailored, supported by strong and credible data and evidence, impose the least burden possible, while still implementing Congressional intent. In addition, when agencies produce regulations that do not reflect these requirements, better mechanisms to hold them accountable are needed. The Regulatory Accountability Act of 2011 will restore these objectives to the regulatory process by:

- Increasing public participation in shaping the most costly regulations before they are proposed.
- Requiring that agencies must choose the least costly option unless they can demonstrate a need to protect public health, safety, or welfare.
- Giving interested parties the opportunity to hold agencies accountable for their compliance with the Information Quality Act.
- Providing for on-the-record administrative hearings for the most costly regulations to insure that agency data is well tested and reviewed.
- Restricting agencies' use of interim final regulations where no comments are taken before a regulation takes effect and providing for expedited judicial review of whether that approach is justified.
- Providing for a more rigorous test in legal challenges for those regulations that would have the most impact.

The Regulatory Accountability Act of 2011 builds on established principles of fair regulatory process and review that have been embodied in bipartisan executive orders dating to

at least the Clinton administration and will make the regulatory process more transparent, agencies more accountable, and regulations more cost effective. The Act will not affect any regulations that are already in effect.

We welcome the introduction of this bill and enthusiastically support it. We look forward to working with you on moving it forward.

Sincerely,

Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers  
Aluminum Association  
American Bakers Association  
American Chemistry Council  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Forest & Paper Association  
American Foundry Society  
American Hotel and Lodging Association  
American Machine Tool Distributors' Association  
American Petroleum Institute  
Associated Builders & Contractors, Illinois Chapter  
Associated Builders & Contractors, Inc.  
Associated Builders & Contractors, Rocky Mountain Chapter  
Associated General Contractors of America  
Associated General Contractors of California  
Automotive Parts Remanufacturers Association  
Brick Industry Association  
Business Roundtable  
Colorado Roofing Association  
CTIA – The Wireless Association  
Edison Electric Institute  
Equipment Marketing & Distribution Association  
Financial Services Forum  
Industrial Energy Consumers of America  
Industrial Supply Association  
International Sign Association  
International Warehouse Logistics Association  
Irrigation Association  
Marine Retailers Association of America  
Metals Service Center Institute  
National Association of Electrical Distributors  
National Association of Home Builders  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Association of REALTORS®  
National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors  
National Black Chamber of Commerce  
National Club Association

National Council of Chain Restaurants  
National Electrical Contractors Association  
National Federation of Independent Business  
National Funeral Directors Association  
National Marine Distributors Association  
National Mining Association  
National Newspaper Association  
National Retail Federation  
National Roofing Contractors Association  
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association  
North American Association of Utility Distributors  
North American Die Casting Association  
North American Equipment Dealers Association  
NPES—The Association for Suppliers of Printing, Publishing and Converting Technologies  
Nuclear Energy Institute  
Outdoor Power Equipment and Engine Service Association  
Portland Cement Association  
Property Casualty Insurers Association of America  
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council  
SouthWestern Association (farm, industrial/construction and outdoor power equipment  
retailers)  
SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce