



January 10, 2017

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), a national construction industry trade association with 70 chapters representing nearly 21,000 chapter members, I am writing in regard to the *Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act of 2017* (H.R. 26) introduced by Rep. Doug Collins (R-GA) as well as the *Midnight Rules Relief Act of 2017* (H.R. 21) introduced by Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA).

From 2009 to present, the federal government imposed nearly \$900 billion in regulatory costs on the American people which requires billions of hours of paperwork. Many of these regulations have been or will be imposed on the construction industry. ABC is committed to reforming the broken federal regulatory process and ensuring industry stakeholders' voices are heard and rights are protected. ABC supports increased transparency and opportunities for regulatory oversight by Congress and ultimately, the American people.

The Obama administration issued numerous rulemakings that detrimentally impact the construction industry. In some cases, these regulations are based on conjecture and speculation, lacking foundation in sound scientific analysis. For the construction industry, unjustified and unnecessary regulations translate to higher costs, which are then passed along to the consumer or lead to construction projects being priced out of the market. This chain reaction ultimately results in fewer projects, and hinders businesses' ability to hire and expand.

ABC members understand the value of standards and regulations when they are based on solid evidence, with appropriate consideration paid to implementation costs and input from the business community. Federal agencies must be held accountable for full compliance with existing rulemaking statutes and requirements when promulgating regulations to ensure they are necessary, current and cost-effective for businesses to implement.

ABC opposes unnecessary, burdensome and costly regulations resulting from the efforts of Washington bureaucrats who have little accountability for their actions. H.R. 26 will help to bring greater accountability to the rulemaking process as it would require any executive branch rule or regulation with an annual economic impact of \$100 million or more to come before Congress for an up-or-down vote before being enacted. Moreover, H.R. 21 will further enhance congressional oversight of the overreaching regulations often issued during the final months of a president's term and help to revive the division of powers.

Thank you for your attention on this important matter and we urge the House to pass the *Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act of 2017* and *Midnight Rules Relief Act of 2017* when they come to the floor for a vote.

Sincerely,

Kristen Swearingen
Vice President of Legislative & Political Affairs