



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 members, I am writing in support of the *Regulatory Accountability Act of 2017* (H.R. 5) introduced by Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-VA). ABC supports this legislation, which would reform the Administrative Procedures Act and strengthen existing checks on federal agencies, allowing for more cost-effective regulations through a more transparent process.

As builders of our communities and infrastructure, ABC members understand the value of standards and regulations based on solid evidence, with appropriate consideration paid to implementation costs and input from affected businesses. ABC strongly supports comprehensive regulatory reform which includes across-the-board requirements for departments and agencies to appropriately evaluate risks, weigh costs, and assess benefits of all regulations. H.R. 5 is an excellent step in regulatory reform as it ensures more accountability from federal agencies and greater stakeholder transparency.

Today, federal regulatory agencies wield incredible power through rulemaking. They have grown adept at using procedural loopholes in order to accomplish narrowly-focused goals. These agencies operate relatively unchecked and unsupervised, especially during the early stages of the regulatory process. They often disregard and circumvent the will of Congress and the American public by issuing regulations with poor or incomplete economic cost-benefit forecasting or other data analysis, instead of using the best and most accurate data that could have created more practical, sustainable rules and regulations.

Consequently, some regulations that have limited or questionable benefit result in crippling costs for companies and often no serious consideration is given for more practical alternatives. For the construction industry, these regulations routinely translate into higher costs and are passed along to the consumer.

Ultimately, these costs impact our industry's ability to expand and hire more workers. It is particularly alarming that small businesses, which comprise the vast majority of the industry, are disproportionately affected by this irresponsible approach to regulation.

Thank you for your attention on this important matter and we urge the House to pass the *Regulatory Accountability Act of 2017*.

Sincerely,

Kristen Swearingen  
Vice President of Legislative & Political Affairs