

February 25, 2014

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The undersigned groups strongly support current efforts in the House of Representatives to enact regulatory reform legislation designed to make federal agencies more accountable to the American public and their elected representatives, to improve the transparency of agency actions, and to establish a level playing field for citizens who work with – and are regulated by – federal agencies.

Sound regulation is not possible unless the full regulatory process is open and meaningful public participation is allowed by agencies. We are pleased that a comprehensive regulatory reform bill, H.R. 2804, the Achieving Less Excess in Regulation and Requiring Transparency (ALERT) Act, is going to the House floor this week. H.R. 2804 embodies several major principles of accountability, transparency, and fairness, drawn directly from the following individual bills:

- **H.R. 2804** – the Achieving Less Excess in Regulation and Requiring Transparency (ALERT) Act. This bill would require federal agencies to submit monthly and annual reports of planned new rulemakings they will propose or finalize to OMB’s Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA). OIRA would release information about these upcoming rules, including their estimated costs and benefits, to the public.
- **H.R. 2122** – the Regulatory Accountability Act. This bill would update the Administrative Procedure Act of 1946 to deal with the realities of today’s regulatory environment. It is designed to ensure greater transparency during rule development, allow greater public access to the data on which an agency relies, and make agencies consider lower-cost alternatives. This legislation is particularly necessary right now because of the recent growth in the number of billion- and multi-billion dollar rules, which create uncertainty, stifle hiring, and displace workers. Many more such mega-rules will be finalized in the next few years.
- **H.R. 1493** – the Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act. This bill would bring more transparency and accountability to the “sue and settle” process by requiring agencies to give earlier notice and take public comment on proposed settlement agreements obligating agencies to take rulemaking action on a specified timetable. These settlement agreements allow outside advocacy groups to effectively take control of an agency’s agenda and regulatory priorities. The bill would allow stakeholders to have notice of draft settlements and an opportunity – under limited circumstances – to be involved in the negotiation process.
- **H.R. 2542** – the Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act. This bill would expand the scope of required regulatory impact analyses under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (including cumulative impacts), remove current exemptions from impact analyses, and give the SBA Office of Advocacy the authority to issue rules governing federal agency compliance with the RFA.

Taken together, these reforms would allow Congress and the public to reassert control over a federal regulatory bureaucracy that is opaque, unaccountable, and often unfair. Congress must act to reclaim its critical role as overseer of the federal agencies.

The undersigned groups strongly support H.R. 2804, the ALERRT Act, and its comprehensive approach to regulatory reform. We urge you to support this important bill.

Sincerely,

60 Plus Association
Aeronautical Repair Station Association
Airlines for America
American Architectural Manufacturers Association
American Bakers Association
American Beverage Association
American Chemistry Council
American Coatings Association
American Composites Manufacturers Association
American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association
American Council of Engineering Companies
American Forest & Paper Association
American Foundry Society
American Insurance Association (AIA)
American Iron and Steel Institute
American Lighting Association
American Petroleum Institute
American Rental Association
American Road & Transportation Builders Association
American Supply Association
AMT – The Association For Manufacturing Technology
Associated Builders & Contractors, Inc.
Associated Builders & Contractors – Illinois Chapter
Associated Builders & Contractors – Rhode Island Chapter
Associated Builders and Contractors – San Diego Chapter
Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. – Pelican Chapter (LA)
Associated Equipment Distributors
Associated General Contractors – St. Louis, MO
Associated General Contractors of America
Associated Oregon Industries
Associated Wire Rope Fabricators
Association of American Railroads
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association
Automotive Parts & Services Association
Aviation Suppliers Association
Can Manufacturers Institute

Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT)
Council of Industrial Boiler Owners
Edison Electric Institute
Far West Equipment Dealers Association
Forging Industry Association
Foundry Association of Michigan
Global Cold Chain Alliance (GCCA)
Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association
Heating, Air-Conditioning & Refrigeration Distributors International (HARDI)
INDA, Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry
Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC)
Indiana Cast Metals Association
Indiana Manufacturers Association
Industrial Energy Consumers of America
Industrial Fasteners Institute
Industrial Minerals Association – North America
Institute of Makers of Explosives
International Association of Plastics Distribution (IAPD)
International Foodservice Distributors Association
International Sign Association
IPC – Association Connecting Electronics Industries
Irrigation Association
ISSA – The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association
Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association
Marine Retailers Association of the Americas
Metals Service Center Institute
Modification and Replacement Parts Association
Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association
NAHAD – The Association for Hose & Accessories Distribution
National Association of Chemical Distributors
National Association of Convenience Stores
National Association of Home Builders
National Association of Manufacturers
National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors
National Black Chamber of Commerce
National Council of Chain Restaurants
National Federation of Independent Business
National Funeral Directors Association
National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association
National Mining Association
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association
National Roofing Contractors Association
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association
National Systems Contractors Association
National Tooling and Machining Association

Non-Ferrous Founders' Society
North American Die Casting Association
North American Equipment Dealers Association
NTEA – The Association for the Work Truck Industry
Ohio Cast Metals Association
Property Casualty Insurers Association of America (PCI)
Pennsylvania Foundry Association
Petroleum Equipment Institute
Petroleum Marketers Association of America
Portland Cement Association
Precision Machined Products Association
Precision Metalforming Association
Printing Industries of America
Professional Landcare Network
Retail Industry Leaders Association
Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce Coalition
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council
South Carolina Timber Producers Association
SouthWestern Equipment Dealers Association – Kansas City, MO
Texas Cast Metals Association
Textile Care Allied Trades Association
Textile Rental Services Association
The Aluminum Association
The FDA Motion & Control Network
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Utah Restaurant Association
Water & Sewer Distributors of America
West Coast Lumber & Building Material Association
Wholesale Florist & Florist Supplier Association
Window and Door Manufacturers Association
Wisconsin Grocers Association
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce
Wyoming Stock Growers Association