



July 30, 2013

United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), a national trade association with 72 chapters representing nearly 22,000 members from more than 19,000 construction and industry-related firms, I am writing to express our support for H.R. 367, the *Regulations from the Executive In Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act* and urge you to vote yes when it comes to the floor this week.

As builders of our communities and infrastructure, 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. However, some regulations imposed on the construction industry result in crippling costs with questionable benefits. 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.

Further, the full impact and outcomes of numerous federal regulations proposed by the Obama administration are currently unclear, creating an environment of uncertainty in the construction industry that makes it difficult for firms to adequately plan for the future. In 2012 alone, the federal government imposed or proposed \$236.7 billion in new regulatory costs, bringing the administration's first term total to \$518 billion. In addition, the administration's most recent agenda lists anticipated rules that will add another \$123.2 billion.

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. As the White House and Executive Branch agencies continue to roll out complex, costly and burdensome regulations, this legislation would add greater transparency and accountability to the federal rulemaking process, and ensure that Congress is held equally accountable for the impact that finalized rules have on the business community and the American people.

ABC remains committed to reforming the federal regulatory process, and urges your support of H.R. 367.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey G. Burr
Vice President, Federal Affairs