

July 25, 2012

Vote No on H.R. 4078

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our 14 environmental and labor partners, representing over 15 million members, we urge you to preserve the integrity and effectiveness of the regulatory process and oppose the “Red Tape Reduction and Small Business Jobs Creation Act” (H.R. 4078) as well as its seven included bills. The implications of this omnibus anti-regulatory legislation reach far beyond the misguided mark of refining the oversight powers of the federal government, adding layers of complications and rendering ineffective the mechanisms by which the federal government regulates. These effects dangerously expose Americans to health, safety and economic risks. This reckless unprecedented approach attempts to eliminate responsible and safe provisions for the public, with no quantifiable improvement to job growth.

The “Regulatory Freeze for Jobs Act” would block a significant majority of regulatory actions passed by Congress as long as national unemployment remains above 6%. The range of protections this affects is vast, from ensuring the quality of our water and air resources, to establishing workplace health and safety, to providing modern appropriate health care, to consumer protection on all levels. Not only would the benefits of these established, purposeful measures be negated and lost, innovation sparked from regulatory encouragement would be squandered and one of the most defining characteristics of a responsible American culture and economy would be swept aside.

The “Midnight Rule Relief Act” attempts to disqualify regulations proposed or implemented during a President’s “lame duck” term. By arbitrarily creating a blackout date for standards and safeguards, this legislation creates merit-less hurdles for regulations created to enact laws passed by Congress that often have multiple year timelines.

Further, this collection of bills creates duplicative and unnecessary analytical requirements, among them identifying indirect costs and expanding the process of judicial review. Introducing requirements forced to meet unreachable goals, extend

timelines and add bureaucratic complications, wholly dismisses the purpose of institutional safeguards.

The achievements of our federal regulatory system should be praised for its unique stewardship of safe working conditions, a healthy populace and clean, protected natural resources. We urge you to oppose these bills that only serve to weaken and endanger a strong America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David A. Foster". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

David A. Foster
Executive Director, BlueGreen Alliance