

July 30, 2013

**Oppose H.R. 367, the so-called "REINS Act"**

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the BlueGreen Alliance, I strongly urge you to oppose pending legislation that would undermine our system of public protections.

The Regulations from the Executive In Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act will fundamentally change the entire regulatory process. REINS would place Congress directly into the rulemaking process by requiring major rules to be reviewed and voted upon by Congress before going into effect. This effectively sets up Congress as the gatekeeper on regulations; without Congressional approval within 70 days with no alterations, a rule would be tabled until the next congressional session.

The REINS Act does not protect public interest when determining approval. Politics would dictate all regulatory actions rather than scientific judgment or expertise of agencies. This would allow for more big business opposition and influence over major rule approval, a process that is supposed to be based on objective agency science and expertise, and would potentially block critical protections. The REINS Act creates a redundant rulemaking process since Congress already has the first and last word under the current framework. However, the addition of the REINS Act would force Congress to refight previous debates over rules, further wasting time and money and halting the implementation of necessary safeguards.

It is imperative that Congress maintain a responsible regulatory approach to protect our workers, our families, and our environment while maintaining our economy's competitive edge in the 21st century, and it is with these goals in mind that the BlueGreen Alliance urges you to oppose H.R. 367, the so called "REINS Act."

Sincerely,



David A. Foster  
Executive Director, BlueGreen Alliance