



CREATING GOOD JOBS, A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT, AND A FAIR AND THRIVING ECONOMY

March 14, 2017

Dear Senator:

As a coalition of the nation's largest labor unions and environmental groups, collectively representing millions of members and supporters, we urge you to oppose S. 21, the "Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act of 2017," and S. 34, the "Midnight Rules Relief Act of 2017." These bills would fundamentally gut the federal regulatory process as well as rules meant to protect public health, the environment, consumer and worker safety, and good jobs across the country.

These bills are dangerous proposals for public health, workers, and the environment and would do nothing to help to the American people. Under the guise of streamlining the regulatory process, they would undermine bedrock environmental and public safety laws that protect communities and workers across the country and overturn protections that American people – and the economy – depend on.

The REINS Act of 2017 would require any rule with an impact of \$100 million or more on the economy to be approved by Congress within 70 legislative days, without alterations, in order to take effect. This process would empower Congress to be the gatekeeper on federal protections and allow politics to play a heavy hand in determining which regulations see it through to implementation, rather than science, law, or public interest. The REINS Act would fundamentally undermine the federal government's ability to set standards of all kinds. This includes those that protect public health, the environment, and worker safety, many of which also have a long track record of creating quality jobs and boosting economic growth.

The Midnight Rules Relief Act of 2017 would amend the Congressional Review Act to make an already extreme act even more disastrous. This bill would allow Congress to bundle together all regulations promulgated by federal agencies within the last 60 legislative days of a President's final term and vote to disapprove of them all at once. This would enable Congress to – in one vote – overturn many of the critical public health and worker safety standards finalized towards the end of the last administration, including a number of standards that were under development for years that will not only protect the environment and improve public health, but also create quality jobs in American manufacturing and low carbon and clean energy technologies. Furthermore, this bill would undermine the stability that American businesses have come to rely on.

We strongly urge you to oppose both the REINS Act of 2017 and Midnight Rules Relief Act of 2017.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Glas". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kim Glas
Executive Director
BlueGreen Alliance