



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

May 16, 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. 951, the Regulatory Accountability Act of 2017. This bill would fundamentally gut the federal regulatory process that protects public health, the environment, consumer and worker safety, and good jobs across the country.

S.951 would have devastating impacts on the health and safety of workers, the environment, and the economy. Far from improving or streamlining the regulatory process, the RAA would do the exact opposite. Our regulatory process is already riddled with delays, and the cumbersome and arbitrary processes introduced by the RAA would make this worse, while lowering the quality and effectiveness of the resulting standards. In short, the RAA would weaken and block the federal government's ability to issue standards necessary to protect American workers and communities and spur job creation.

Federal standards are critical for ensuring workers are protected on the job. For example, the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) finalized a rule in 2016 to improve protections for an estimated 2.2 million workers who are exposed to silica dust everyday. After going through 40 years of regulatory delay, this rule will save nearly 700 lives and prevent 1,600 cases of silicosis a year. Jobs are not good jobs if they are not safe for workers. Exposure to silica dust can cause a multitude of debilitating and life-altering illnesses, including silicosis, lung cancer, kidney disease, and respiratory diseases. Workers and communities depend on federal protections to keep them safe.

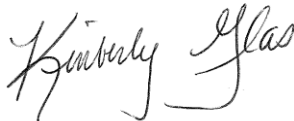
Not only does cutting regulations harm worker health and safety, but it also harms American manufacturing, the families who depend on those jobs, and the communities that have been built around them. U.S. leadership on efficiency, toxics reduction and advanced clean energy and transportation technology helps spur domestic innovation, investment, and job growth and helps secure American competitiveness.

For example, the auto sector alone supports 200,000 vehicle assembly jobs and 750,000 more advanced automotive components and technology manufacturing jobs nationwide. Today there are 1,200 factories and engineering facilities in 48 states—and hundreds of thousands of workers—building clean and fuel efficient vehicle technology that goes into meeting our commonsense vehicle greenhouse

gas reduction and fuel economy standards. The RAA threatens jobs like these and threatens the competitive edge that American manufacturing companies can have against nations like China.

This bill is a dangerous proposal for public health, workers and the environment. Under the guise of streamlining the regulatory process, it would undermine bedrock environmental and public safety laws that protect communities and workers and overturn protections upon which the American people and the economy depend. We strongly urge you to oppose S. 951, the Regulatory Accountability Act of 2017.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Glas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kim Glas
Executive Director
BlueGreen Alliance