



December 7, 2011

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Oppose H.R. 10 (The REINS Act) – Don't Block Government's Ability to Protect
Communities Against Air and Water Pollution

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our 1.4 million members, activists and supporters, I urge you to oppose H.R. 10, the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny or "REINS" Act. This radical, undemocratic legislation would hamstring our government's ability to protect us from harm, including dangerous air and water pollution.

This bill embodies the most extreme elements of today's Congress – a fervor to abolish and block pollution protections, a disdain for the collaborative rulemaking system and a desire to circumvent democratic processes in order to enrich and protect corporate allies and donors. A requirement that both the House and Senate approve within 70 days any rule with an impact of \$100 million or more is far from a well-intentioned attempt at providing needed scrutiny. There is no such need and the intent is to eviscerate rulemaking altogether by breaking the back of our functioning, necessary regulatory system.

Blocking public and environmental health protections, as would undoubtedly occur if this legislation were to pass, would inevitably lead to tens of thousands of preventable deaths, illnesses and hospital visits every year. The elderly, prenatal babies and children, minorities and the poor would shoulder the brunt of this attack on public health safeguards. Americans everywhere will be forced to live with dirtier air and water.

Again, I urge you to put Americans' health above political theatre and oppose H.R. 10.

Sincerely,

Michael Brune
Executive Director