



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

November 30, 2011

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Oppose radical bills (H.R. 3010, H.R. 527, H.R. 10) that gut public protections

Dear Representative:

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) works to turn environmental values into national priorities. Each year, LCV publishes the *National Environmental Scorecard*, which details the voting records of members of Congress on environmental legislation. The *Scorecard* is distributed to LCV members, concerned voters nationwide, and the media.

LCV urges you to vote NO on this trio of harmful bills (H.R. 3010, H.R. 527, and H.R. 10) that jeopardize public protections, including for the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat. These bills do not improve the regulatory process and further empower special interests over the public interest. A broad coalition of consumer, small business, labor, environmental, faith, community, and public interest groups oppose these bills.

The extreme REINS Act (H.R. 10) would undo more than 100 years of safeguards by allowing just one chamber of Congress to block law enforcement of existing statutory protections – from worker safety, to public health, to Wall Street reform. This bill would actually increase regulatory uncertainty by throwing every major regulatory issue back to Congress: a duplicative and unnecessary action given that nearly all regulations stem from Congress in the first place. Furthermore, Congress already possesses the ability to overturn any major rule under the Congressional Review Act.

The so-called Regulatory Accountability Act (H.R. 3010) is an equally dangerous bill that cripples the rulemaking process. It requires all agencies to adopt the least costly rule – a provision in the existing Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) that has rendered that law completely ineffective. The bill also overrides existing statutory standards in laws such as the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and the Occupational Safety and Health Act. This bill requires an additional 60 analyses and greatly expands the power of the courts over rulemakings.

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (H.R. 527) purports to assist small business. In reality, it would make it virtually impossible for public protections to be put in place by requiring additional and wasteful analyses, covering rules that may have only an indirect impact on small businesses, and allowing big business to litigate rules because it disagrees with the *indirect* impact on small businesses. Surveys show that small businesses are being hampered by lack of demand, not regulations.

We urge you to REJECT these harmful and sweeping bills that will stop government's ability to advance public safeguards for our air and water, as well as for our workplaces, food supply, consumer products and medical innovations. We will strongly consider including votes on these bills in the 2011 Scorecard. If you need more information, please call Tiernan Sittenfeld, Sara Chieffo or Alex Taurel in my office at (202) 785-8683.

Sincerely,

Gene Karpinski
President