



July 28, 2015

RE: Protect Our Air and Water – Oppose H.R. 427, the REINS Act

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our 2.4 million members and supporters, I write to strongly urge that you oppose H.R. 427, the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015 (REINS Act). This legislation is a thinly veiled attack on our entire federal rulemaking system and, if passed, would put every American's health and well-being at risk.

By requiring that major rules and safeguards receive approval from both the House and Senate within 70 legislative days, this bill injects politics and partisanship into a process that is supposed to be governed by scientific and technical experts. In all likelihood it would serve as a blanket moratorium on federal rulemaking. Blocking all regulations would mean no restrictions on how much pollution power plants and industrial facilities can spew into our air and water, no oversight or worker protections for risky offshore oil drilling or coal mining operations, and no fuel and vehicle efficiency standards that save Americans money at the pump and clean up our air.

This bill is more of the same from those in Congress who do not believe government has a responsibility to protect and safeguard people's health. This is not an effort to reform. This is an effort to give a free pass to corporate bad actors that disdain accountability and want no limitations on their actions. In years past, such an extreme tactic would have likely prohibited government's work to mandate seat belts, remove lead from our gasoline and paint, abolish child labor and establish a minimum wage. Most Americans would join me in appreciating a rulemaking system that has worked so effectively to protect our communities and strengthen our society.

Families across the country are counting on Congress to stand up for clean air and clean water. Again, I strongly encourage you to oppose H.R. 427. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Brune".

Michael Brune
Executive Director