



FACT SHEET: The SAFEGUARD SHUTDOWN BILL The Proposed Radical Bill Would Halt the U.S. Regulatory System

July 2012

The House of Representatives will soon consider a radical bill proposed by Republican members: “Red Tape Reduction and Small Business Job Creation Act” (H.R. 4078). This bill is made up of provisions [H.R. 4078](#), [H.R. 4607](#), [H.R. 3862](#), [H.R. 373](#), [H.R. 4377](#), [H.R. 2308](#), and [H.R. 1840](#) which would, in an unprecedented move **halt all regulatory action on national safeguards** that protect the health and safety of Americans and bolster the nation’s economy.

Combined, these provisions would halt or delay virtually ALL regulations and do absolutely nothing to stimulate the economy or new job opportunities. They would shut down crucial safeguards that give Americans confidence in the products at the grocery store, the safety of their workplaces, the cleanliness of the water system, the soundness of our financial system, and the safety of vital infrastructure.

HOW THIS BILL WILL HURT AVERAGE AMERICANS

1. **Public Health and Clean Air** – These bills would continue to prevent the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from implementing [standards defining power plants, industrial boilers, process heaters and cement plants](#) compliance with the Clean Air Act. Those structures are the largest emitters of mercury and toxic air pollutants. Compliance would curb their harmful impact on the respiratory health of millions of Americans.
2. **Food Safety** – Each year, 1.2 million people get sick, 7,125 are hospitalized, and 134 die from foodborne illnesses contracted from contaminated produce. Illnesses and food recalls also hurt the U.S. agriculture and food industries. The [Food Safety Modernization Act](#), passed with support from both industry and consumer groups, calls for new regulations on produce handling on large farms and an inspection system for foreign farms to be in place by 2013. Its implementation depends on rulemaking that would be blocked by the proposed bills.
3. **Workplace Safety – Beryllium**, a toxic substance (lung cancer and other fatal and chronic diseases) exposed to workers in the electronics, nuclear, and metalwork industries. Current 1950s-based standards allow workers to continue to be exposed to levels higher than ruled safe for nuclear power plant workers. The three proposed bills would stop the Occupational Safety and Health Administration from updating exposure standards to protect all workers.
4. **Energy and Environment** – The proposed bills would block the U.S. Department of Energy from implementing the [Energy Security and Independence Act](#), delaying for five years [updates of energy efficiency standards](#) for a wide range of products. The estimated lost savings for the U.S. economy would be \$48 to \$105 billion. The bills also would halt the Federal Trade Commission’s

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rulemaking [for energy efficiency labeling](#) designed to protect consumers from misleading and deceptive claims about product energy savings.

5. **Veterans Benefits** – The proposed bills would block rules to ensure the [Family and Medical Leave Act](#) is applied fairly to military service personnel. They would also prevent the full implementation of the [Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay Compensation](#) rule that pays back the debt that we all owe to soldiers who stayed for prolonged periods in Iraq and Afghanistan.
6. **Medical Devices** – The proposed bills would block the [Food and Drug Administration’s long-awaited rules](#) to ensure all implanted medical devices, (such as artificial hips and implantable heart valves) can be tracked in the event any are found to be unsafe and recalled.
7. **Hunting** – Bird hunting could be shutdown by the proposed bills because they would block the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from issuing the annual “[Migratory Bird Hunting: Late Seasons and Bag and Possession Limits for Certain Migratory Game Birds](#)” rule that determines the appropriate bird hunting season for each state.

Keep America Strong and Safe

Health, safety, environmental, financial, and other safeguards make our country stronger and safer – and the public relies on them. The Clean Air Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, and the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act are only a few of the landmark laws that have improved life in America.

- These laws [save tens of thousands of lives and billions of dollars annually](#).
- Economic studies (see: [1](#) and [2](#)) show that America’s regulatory safeguards give the U.S. economy a competitive advantage
- A majority of [Americans say regulatory safeguards should be preserved](#)

Coalition for Sensible Safeguards

<http://www.sensible safeguards.org/protecting-us-from-safeguard-shutdown-bills>

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