

May 19, 2023

Dear Member of Congress:

The Coalition for Sensible Safeguards (CSS) is an alliance of over 160 labor, scientific, research, good government, faith, community, health, environmental, and public interest groups — representing millions of Americans. We are joined in the belief that our country’s system of regulatory safeguards should secure our quality of life, pave the way for a sound economy, and benefit us all. While many of our member organizations are strongly opposed to the Limit Save Grow Act, or the “Default on America Act,” today we and the undersigned allied organizations are writing specifically to urge you to reject the inclusion of **the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2023 (REINS Act), H.R. 277, in any debt ceiling package.**

We oppose the inclusion of the REINS Act because it represents a serious threat to our government’s ability to protect the public from harm. The REINS Act will halt the implementation of critical new public health and safety safeguards, financial reforms, and worker protections — making industry even less accountable to the public. The bill will not improve protections for the American public, but rather, would benefit only those corporations that wish to game the system and evade safety standards.

Under the REINS Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and our other protection agencies could not enforce a “major” rule — a rule with a large economic impact — unless both houses of Congress affirmatively approved it, with no alterations, within a 70-day window. It would stop the most important and life-saving rules, including the large number of non-controversial rules agencies produce every year, from being finalized.

Large teams of scientific, technical, and policy experts at agencies must work diligently to gather and process complex information and solicit and incorporate input from a broad range of interested stakeholders when designing smart and sensible regulations. A failure to follow this process means that a rule can be struck down by the courts during judicial review. In contrast, the REINS Act would allow congressional inaction to supersede subject matter expertise. The REINS Act would give special interests even more influence over the regulatory process by creating a new opportunity for politics to trump science and ignore the public’s needs. The most commonsense, non-controversial rules could be blocked for any reason or no reason at all.

Congress already has the first and last word when it comes to agency rulemaking, making the REINS Act unnecessary. Agencies can only exercise authority that has been delegated by Congress in authorizing legislation. Any agency attempt to overstep these bounds is likely to result in judicial scrutiny and reversal of the agency’s action. And Congress always retains the authority to enact new legislation to block any rule it opposes.

Inhibiting the functioning of our regulatory system and the vital safeguards it delivers to the American people every day should not be part of this debate.

For these reasons, **we strongly urge you to oppose the REINS Act, including in any debt ceiling package.**

Sincerely,

Coalition for Sensible Safeguards  
AFL-CIO  
American Association for Justice  
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE)  
American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Sustainable Business Network  
Americans for Financial Reform  
Appliance Standards Awareness Project  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Center for Economic Justice  
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
Center for Progressive Reform  
Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI)  
Clean Water Action  
Climate Hawks Vote  
Communications Workers of America (CWA)  
Consumer Action  
Consumer Federation of America  
Consumer Federation of California  
Delaware Community Reinvestment Action Council  
Earthjustice  
Economic Policy Institute  
EDF Action  
Endangered Species Coalition  
Environmental Working Group  
Freedom BLOC  
Friends of the Earth  
ICWUC  
Impact Fund  
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy  
International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers  
International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW)  
Jobs to Move America  
Kentucky Equal Justice Center  
Kids In Danger  
League of Conservation Voters

League of Women Voters of the United States  
Manufactured Home Owners Association of New Jersey Inc.  
Moms Clean Air Force  
National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low-income clients)  
National Consumers League  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Employment Law Project  
National Federation of Federal Employees  
National Health Law Program  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
New Jersey Association on Correction  
OPCMIA  
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)  
Public Citizen  
Public Justice Center  
South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center  
Texas Appleseed  
The Wilderness Society  
UFCW International Union  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
UNITE HERE  
United Steelworkers (USW)  
USPIRG  
UWUA  
Waterkeeper Alliance