

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
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May 27, 2010

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region, urges you to co-sponsor H.R. 3765, the "Regulations from the Executive In Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act," introduced by Rep. Geoff Davis in an effort to reclaim congressional oversight and accountability of the laws passed by Congress. The REINS Act would require Congress to affirmatively approve any new major rule proposed by the executive agencies before it can be enforced on the American people.

Executive agencies issue up to 4,000 rules a year, meaning nearly 60,000 rules have been issued since 1995. To say that these regulations represent a "hidden tax" on business is a gross understatement. Last year, annual regulatory compliance costs were \$1.187 trillion,¹ which dwarfed corporate income taxes of \$147 billion. In 2009, Congress passed and the president signed into law 125 bills. When one considers that executive agencies, by contrast, issued a staggering 3,503 final rules in 2009, it becomes very clear that a considerable amount of lawmaking power is delegated to unelected bureaucrats at federal agencies.

The REINS Act would address this growing concern. It would constrain the delegation of congressional authority by limiting the size and scope of rule-making permission. The REINS Act would require both houses of Congress to affirmatively approve, and the president to sign, any new "major rule" – i.e., a rule with a projected impact to the economy of over \$100 million – before it could become effective.

With the recently enacted health care bill, and sweeping proposals on climate change, energy, and financial regulatory reform, executive agencies will be promulgating hundreds of new regulations in the very near future. The REINS Act would ensure that Congress retains ultimate control and accountability for how these laws are written and implemented.

For these reasons, the Chamber urges you to support and co-sponsor H.R. 3765.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten

¹ Clyde Wayne Crews, *Ten Thousand Commandments: A Snapshot of the Federal Regulatory State*; April 15, 2010.