

March 14, 2017

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and our millions of members and supporters, we strongly urge you to oppose S. 21, the “Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act of 2017,” scheduled for markup on March 15, 2015, in the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee. The REINS Act, which has never been subject of a hearing in the Senate, is an extraordinarily extreme measure that would effectively make it impossible to protect the public by shutting down the entire regulatory system.

Under the bill, no major regulation could take effect unless it is approved by both houses of Congress within a limited period of time. This would effectively amend every existing regulatory statute – including bedrock laws like the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act – and neuter them. The regulatory system would return to what it was in the age of the robber barons with no federal agency able to use its technical and scientific expertise to protect the public. Either house of Congress could kill any future safeguard simply by failing to act.

The public expects the government to be able to protect it from toxins in food, consumer products, air and water. The REINS Act would make that virtually impossible. It would amount to a coup by ideologues and special interests that have been unable to block safeguards through normal legislative and constitutional processes.

If you think you might ever protect your constituents from dirty air or water, drinking water contamination, disease spread by food, lead in toys, predatory banking practices or any known or yet unforeseen threat, you need to vote against the REINS Act. The Act would simply be the most fundamental step away from protecting the public in U.S. history.

Sincerely,

Alaska Wilderness League

American Association of University Women

Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council

Bend the Arc Jewish Action

Biodiversity for a Livable Climate
BlueGreen Alliance
Bold Alliance
Cahaba River Society
Center for Biological Diversity
Charles River Watershed Association
Clean Air Task Force
Clean Water Action
Climate Hawks Vote
Communications Workers of America
Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship
Connecticut League of Conservation Voters
Defenders of Wildlife
Earth Action, Inc.
Earthjustice
Earthworks
Elders Climate Action
Endangered Habitats League
Environment America
Environmental Advocates of New York
Friends of Alewife Reservation
Friends of the Earth
Gasp
Geos Institute
Green For All
GreenLatinos
Greenpeace USA
Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

Interfaith Power & Light
Iowa Interfaith Power & Light
League of Conservation Voters
League of Women Voters of the United States
Long Island Pine Barrens Society
Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust, Inc.
Main Street Alliance
Michigan League of Conservation Voters
Milwaukee Riverkeeper
Montana Conservation Voters
Montana Environmental Information Center
National Council of Jewish Women
National Health Law Program, Inc.
Natural Resources Defense Council
Nevada Conservation League
NextGen Climate
Nor'East Chapter of Trout Unlimited (MA)
Ocean Conservancy
Ocean Futures Society
Oceana
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Physicians for Social Responsibility, Philadelphia
Population Connection Action Fund
Prairie Rivers Network
Rachel Carson Council
Safe Climate Campaign
San Juan Citizens Alliance
Save The River Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper
Sierra Club

Southern Environmental Law Center
Southern Oregon Climate Action Now
Students for a Just and Stable Future
The Praxis Project
The Vet Voice Foundation
The Wilderness Society
Virginia League of Conservation Voters
Voces Verdes
Voices for Progress
Western Organization of Resource Councils
Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council