

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

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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 all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, urges you to support H.R. 185, the "Regulatory Accountability Act of 2015." This legislation would update the 69-year old Administrative Procedure Act (APA) rulemaking process and improve how federal agencies promulgate the rules with the most significant impact on jobs and economic growth.

Modernizing the APA, whose rulemaking provisions have remained virtually unchanged from when the law was written in 1946, is long overdue. Today's regulatory landscape is vastly different from what it was seven decades ago. There has been an unprecedented increase in economically significant rules in recent years, some of which are slowing economic growth and inhibiting job creation.

H.R. 185 would build on established principles of fair regulatory process and review that have been embodied in bipartisan executive orders dating back to at least the Clinton administration. By creating more transparency and public participation and holding agencies accountable for the nature and quality of their data, the bill would improve the rulemaking process. By compelling agencies to do their homework and show the public the data that support their action early in the process, the bill would result in better rules.

H.R. 185 would be a powerful tool to ensure that the most costly and complex new rules are well-designed and tailored to accomplish their objectives without causing collateral damage to our nation's economy. The bill would not apply to the vast majority of new regulations that are smaller in scope or to regulations already in effect, nor would it impact the enforcement of current regulations.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce strongly supports H.R. 185, a bipartisan measure that would bring the APA up to date. **The Chamber urges you to support H.R. 185 and may consider votes on, or in relation to, this bill in our annual *How They Voted* scorecard.**

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten