



December 9, 2011

REIN-ing in Federal Regulations

As part of the Majority's continuing effort to reduce the burden of costly government mandates, the House of Representatives on Wednesday passed H.R. 10, the REINS Act. The measure would require congressional approval for all federal regulations that have an estimated economic impact of \$100 million or more. Excessive regulations impose huge costs on our economy, hindering job creation and economic growth. According to the Small Business Administration, federal regulations cost our economy \$1.75 trillion per year. Currently, Congress may only check regulatory overreach by the executive branch by passing a joint resolution disapproving a federal regulation, which must then be signed into law by the President. The REINS Act would restore accountability to the rule-making process by preventing regulations that will have a major impact on our economy from being implemented without congressional approval. As a co-sponsor of this important legislation, Congressman Miller hopes that the Senate will pass this legislation to reduce the influence of unelected government bureaucrats and restore congressional oversight to the regulatory process.

House Votes to Give Regulatory Certainty to our Nation's Farmers

On Thursday, the House passed H.R. 1633, the Farm Dust Regulation Prevention Act. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently conducting a review of its standards for particulate matter as required by the Clean Air Act. While these standards are intended to prevent excess soot and emissions in urban areas, the agency has applied these standards to dust generated in rural areas, despite the EPA's own recognition that there is no evidence that rural dust has the same effects on human health as gasses or soot. H.R. 1633 would prohibit the EPA from issuing or finalizing new standards for coarse particulate matter (dust) for at least one year. It would also limit the agency's regulation of nuisance dust - particulates generated from natural sources, unpaved roads, agricultural activities and earth moving- to cases where the benefits of regulation would exceed the cost and where the dust causes substantial adverse effects. Congressman Miller supported this sensible legislation that will eliminate regulatory uncertainty for farmers and rural communities.

California's High Speed Rail Project Must be Held Accountable

It was recently revealed that the estimated cost of California's ambitious high speed rail project has soared to \$98 billion – three times above the original estimates. While the projected costs have soared, concerns have been raised about flaws in the ridership models used to justify the project. While it is important to address our state's growing transportation needs, it is vital that taxpayer dollars be spent wisely and effectively. That is why Congressman Miller has co-sponsored legislation to freeze the \$3.3 billion in federal funds that the state has been awarded for the high speed rail project until September 30, 2012. The legislation also commissions a study by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to review the feasibility of the project's business plan. Specifically, the GAO would be required to determine the accuracy of ridership projections by the California High Speed Rail Authority, the level of which ticket prices and ridership levels must be to ensure the project is self-sustaining, the amount of federal and state funding that will be needed to complete the rail line, and any adverse economic impacts resulting from the eminent domain of private property. As a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Congressman Miller remains committed to addressing California's future transportation needs while protecting taxpayer dollars.

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