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

The undersigned groups strongly urge you to pass a package of bills now named H.R. 4078, the “Red Tape Reduction and Small Business Jobs Creation Act” which would streamline the federal permitting process, impose transparency on the abused sue and settle process used by agencies and environmental groups to circumvent the rulemaking process, and to prohibit agencies from proposing or finalizing major midnight regulations. The common sense reforms in these bills would make the nation’s regulatory process more transparent, efficient, and workable for businesses that create jobs and contribute to economic growth.

Sound regulatory policy is not possible unless the process is open and public participation is welcomed by agencies. At the center of these regulatory reform bills is an effort to promote good government practices that encourage efficiency, sound analysis, and public involvement. To achieve these objectives, we strongly support the regulatory reforms embodied in this bill:

The “Responsibly and Professionally Invigorating Development (RAPID) Act of 2012.” Millions of jobs are never created because of a dysfunctional permitting system that stalls or cancels major projects. For example, 351 stalled energy projects reviewed in a U.S. Chamber of Commerce 2010 study had a total economic value of over $1 trillion and represented 1.9 million American jobs not created. The RAPID Act would provide a streamlined process for developers to obtain environmental permits and approvals for their projects in a timely and efficient manner, allowing jobs to be created and the economy to grow.

The “Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act of 2012.” Environmental advocacy groups sue federal agencies to issue regulations and then agencies settle these lawsuits behind closed doors. Only after a settlement has been agreed to does the public have a chance to provide any comments. This is a pointless exercise because the damage has already been done. More troubling, these settlements often allow advocacy groups and agencies to effectively dictate major policy on their own by circumventing the protections that exist for public participation in our regulatory system. The “Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act of 2012” would promote openness and transparency in the regulatory process by requiring agencies to notify the public of these lawsuits before they are settled and giving the public a meaningful voice in the process.

The “Midnight Rule Relief Act of 2012.” When there is a lame-duck President, agencies rush rules through the regulatory process after a presidential election and prior to the inauguration of a new President (the so-called “midnight period”). Rules issued during this lame-duck period lead to poorly considered policy due to the rushed process and the lack of accountability imposed on lame-duck Presidents. The “Midnight Rule Relief Act of 2012” would address the problem of midnight rules by prohibiting agencies from proposing or finalizing major rules during the midnight period.
The “Regulatory Freeze for Jobs Act of 2012.” The most costly and significant regulations hinder economic growth and job creation. The “Regulatory Freeze for Jobs Act of 2012” would prohibit agencies from issuing the most costly and significant rules until the unemployment rate drops to 6 percent or less.

The “Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2012.” The “Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2012” would improve upon and help fulfill the promise of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995. The new legislation would provide Congress and the public with better information on the effects of unfunded mandates, including those imposed on the private sector.

We strongly urge you to support this important bill.

Sincerely,

60 Plus Association
Agricultural Retailers Association
Airlines for America
American Architectural Manufacturers Association
American Bakers Association
American Beverage Association
American Coatings Association
American Composites Manufacturers Association
American Council of Engineering Companies of California
American Forest & Paper Association
American Foundry Society
American Home Furnishings Alliance
American Iron and Steel Institute
American Loggers Council
American Petroleum Institute
American Supply Association
American Wholesale Marketers Association
Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Arizona-New Mexico Cable Communications Association
Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/Associated Industries of Arkansas
Associated Builders & Contractors, Inc.
Associated Builders & Contractors, Inc. – Illinois Chapter
Associated Builders & Contractors, Inc. – Nevada Chapter
Associated Builders & Contractors, Inc. – Pelican Chapter (LA)
Associated Builders & Contractors, Inc. – Rhode Island Chapter
Associated Builders & Contractors, Inc. – Rocky Mountain Chapter (CO)
Associated General Contractors of America
Associated Wire Rope Fabricators
Association of Commerce and Industry of New Mexico
Association of Washington Business
Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association
Bay City Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture (TX)
Blair County Chamber of Commerce (PA)
Brick Industry Association
Campbell County Chamber of Commerce (WY)
Carolina Food Industry Council
Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce (NV)
Construction Industry Round Table
Consumer Data Industry Association
Consumer Electronics Association
Council for Citizens Against Government Waste
Council of Industrial Boiler Owners
Electronic Retailing Association
Forging Industry Association
Garden City Area Chamber of Commerce (KS)
Gases and Welding Distributors Association
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce (MN)
Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce (TX)
Greater Fort Wayne Chamber of Commerce (IN)
Greater Sandoval County Chamber of Commerce (NM)
Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce (VA)
Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC (PA)
Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce (MN)
Heating, Air-Conditioning & Refrigeration Distributors International
Huntington Regional Chamber of Commerce (WV)
Indiana Manufacturers Association
Industrial Fasteners Institute
Industrial Minerals Association – North America
Industrial Supply Association
International Foodservice Distributors Association
International Sign Association
ISSA – The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association
Johnson City Chamber of Commerce (TN)
Kalispell Chamber of Commerce (MT)
Kansas Chamber of Commerce
Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association
Laredo Chamber of Commerce (TX)
Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce (AR)
Louisiana Committee of 100 for Economic Development, Inc.
Manhattan Chamber of Commerce (KY)
Manufacturer & Business Association
Marine Retailers Association of the Americas
McAllen Chamber of Commerce (TX)
Metals Service Center Institute
Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association
Motorcycle Industry Council
Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce (SC)
National Association of Chemical Distributors
National Association of Electrical Distributors
National Association of Home Builders
National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors
National Black Chamber of Commerce
National Club Association
National Council of Chain Restaurants
National Federation of Independent Business
National Glass Association
National Grain and Feed Association
National Grocers Association
National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association
National Marine Distributors Association
National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Mining Association
National Parking Association
National Poultry & Food Distributors Association
National Roofing Contractors Association
National RV Dealers Association
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association
National Tooling and Machining Association
National Utility Contractors Association
National Wooden Pallet and Container Association
Non-Ferrous Founders’ Society
North American Die Casting Association
North American Equipment Dealers Association
North Carolina Chamber of Commerce
North Carolina Retail Merchants Association
North Country Chamber of Commerce (NY)
Nuclear Energy Institute
Ohio Society of CPAs
Outdoor Amusement Business Association, Inc.
Outdoor Power Equipment and Engine Service Association
Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce (CA)
Precision Machined Products Association
Precision Metalforming Association
Printing Industries of America
Quincy Area Chamber of Commerce (IL)
Rehoboth Beach-Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce (DE)
Retail Industry Leaders Association
Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce (MN)
Rowan County Chamber of Commerce (NC)
SC Timber Producers Association
Shipbuilders Council Of America
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council
South Carolina Retail Association
South Shore Chamber of Commerce (MA)
SouthWestern Equipment Dealers Association
SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association
St. Joseph Metro Chamber (MO)
TechAmerica
Texas Association of Business
Textile Rental Services Association
The Council for Responsible Nutrition
The Fertilizer Institute
Tucson Metro Chamber of Commerce (AZ)
Tulsa Metro Chamber (OK)
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
United Fresh Produce Association
Utah Restaurant Association
Window & Door Dealers Alliance
Window and Door Manufacturers Association
Wisconsin Grocers Association
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce
Wisconsin Small Businesses United