



Dear Representative,

February 26, 2014

The Coalition for Sensible Safeguards (CSS), which includes more than 150 labor, environmental, public health, scientific, consumer, financial reform, and public interest groups, strongly opposes H.R. 899, the dangerous and harmful “Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2013.” This proposal would undermine our nation’s ability to set health, safety and environmental standards as well as new financial protections. Given that we have experienced multiple health and safety disasters in communities and workplaces across the country in recent years, it is the wrong time to thwart the progress of necessary public protections.

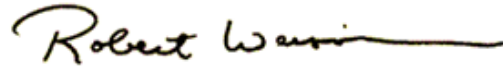
While CSS strongly urges members to vote no on H.R. 899, CSS encourages members to support the amendments offered below:

- Amendment #1 sponsored by Congressman Cummings (MD): This amendment strikes section 5 of the bill, which would eliminate the current exemption from the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act for certain independent agencies. This crucial amendment would ensure that agencies that Congress designated to be independent of the Executive Branch remain so. Further, the amendment would ensure that the important regulations of these agencies, including the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, are not subject to this legislation’s wasteful, unnecessary, and unfunded requirements and can be adopted in a timely and efficient manner.
- Amendment #4 sponsored by Congresswoman Jackson-Lee (TX): This amendment adds Section 14 to the bill to clarify that the requirements of UMRA as amended by this Act do not apply if a cost-benefit analysis demonstrates that the benefits of the regulatory action exceed its costs. This common-sense amendment makes clear that regulations whose benefits to public health and safety exceed the costs to regulated industries, thereby making them good public investments, are not legislation’s wasteful, unnecessary, and unfunded requirements and can be adopted in a timely and efficient manner.
- Amendment #5 sponsored by Congressman Connolly (VA): This amendment ensures that other impacted entities, such as public interest organizations, are provided any opportunity for consultation afforded to the private sector under the Act. This common-sense amendment levels the playing field to allow public interest organizations the same privilege and access that the legislation only affords to the business community and ensures that the regulatory process is fair and open to all stakeholders in an equal manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "K. McFate", with a stylized, flowing script.

Katherine McFate, President and CEO,
Center for Effective Government
Co-chair, Coalition for Sensible Safeguards

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert Weissman", with a long, horizontal, sweeping line extending to the right.

Robert Weissman, President,
Public Citizen
Co-chair, Coalition for Sensible Safeguards