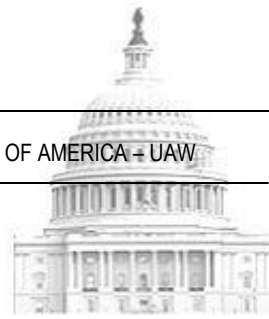




BOB KING, President

DENNIS WILLIAMS, Secretary-Treasurer

VICE PRESIDENTS: JOE ASHTON • CINDY ESTRADA • GENERAL HOLIEFIELD • JIMMY SETTLES



November 3, 2011

IN REPLY REFER TO

1757 N STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036  
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Dear Senator:

Today, the Senate is expected to take up S. 1786, the Long-Term Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2011. This bill will be offered by the Republican minority as an alternative to S. 1769, the Rebuild America Jobs Act. The UAW strongly urges you to vote no cloture and on final passage of S. 1786.

S. 1786 includes measures that would end the federal regulatory system as we know it and make it impossible for the federal government to protect workers and the public from hazards in the workplace, unsafe drugs, polluted air and water, and Wall Street abuses.

Specifically, the bill incorporates S. 299, the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act (REINS), a radical bill that would require Congress to vote to approve all major executive branch rules before they could go into effect. Under REINS, if a rule is not passed by both the House and the Senate within 70 legislative days, it would die. In our view, the REINS Act would substitute politics for scientific or agency expertise to drive regulatory actions. We are very concerned that corporations could use their political influence to block necessary protections, and that the public's interest would suffer.

In our view, S. 1786 is deeply flawed, impractical, and unnecessary. Congress already has the authority to disapprove executive branch rules under the Congressional Review Act, and we see no reason for this legislation. Moreover, Congress does not have the scientific expertise to act on the highly technical matters that are the subject of many federal rules.

The Long-Term Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2011 also incorporates the Regulatory Time-Out Act, S. 1538, which would suspend the effective date of all significant regulations for one year. Regulations most often take years to develop, and there is no reason to add further delay to the process. If enacted, this provision would delay the implementation of hundreds of pending rules, including rules to implement the Dodd-Frank Financial Reform Act and the Affordable Care Act. It would also delay long overdue worker safety rules and roll back workers rights.

For these reasons, the UAW strongly urges you to vote no on cloture and on final passage of S. 1786. Thank you for considering our views on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

  
Barbara Somson  
Legislative Director

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