

KEY VOTE ALERT!



U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Congressional & Public Affairs
1615 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20062
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January 31, 2017

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

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce will consider including votes in our 2017 *How They Voted* scorecard related to H.J. Res. 38 and H.J. Res. 41, which would undo two onerous and unnecessary Obama-era rules on streams and resource extraction.

H.J. Res. 38, Stream Protection: The Chamber supports the resolution to repeal the Department of Interior's stream protection rule that was a crucial component of the Obama administration's war on coal. This rule exceeds the Department's authority, will cause significant economic harm and job losses, and interferes with longstanding and successful state efforts to protect water quality.

In putting together the regulation, the Department acknowledged the rule would have adverse economic impacts as a result of reduced coal production. Yet, the agency may be underestimating the economic impact because it ignored permitting delays and litigation costs. These adverse impacts would increase production costs of U.S. coal relative to foreign competitors and likely reduce U.S. exports.

Should this rule be repealed, the industry will continue to be bound by the 2008 stream buffer zone rule, which was created through a lengthy rulemaking process and extensive environmental analysis.

H.J. Res. 41, Resource Extraction: The Chamber supports the resolution that would eliminate the Securities and Exchange Commission's resource extraction rule. Similar rules from SEC have been killed by the courts because SEC violated the free speech protections of the First Amendment.

The Chamber urges Congress to undo SEC's attempt to twist the Dodd-Frank statute to compel disclosures at corporations, which, in its own description of the rule, SEC recognized that the rule would result in a loss of competitive advantage by U.S. companies relative to some foreign firms.

The Chamber appreciates the House's longstanding commitment to regulatory reform and applauds the expeditious efforts in the new Congress not only to utilize

the Congressional Review Act to tackle problematic rules from the past Administration, but also for approving earlier this month the Regulatory Accountability Act, which would modernize the rule making process going forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Howard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jack Howard
Senior Vice President
Congressional and Public Affairs