



Policy Brief – Smarter Regulation

Congress should pass legislation addressing key aspects of regulatory reform, including cost/benefit analysis, sound science and transparency in the rulemaking process.

Background

The printing and packaging industry maintains an open and collaborative stance in working with all regulatory agencies, particularly the EPA and OSHA, and regularly participates in notices of proposed rulemakings. However, today's extensive regulatory burdens are causing a negative growth impact on the industry. This is well illustrated in a January 2017 study by the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) titled "Holding Us Back: Regulation of the U.S. Manufacturing Sector," which analyzed hundreds of specific federal regulations. Key findings of that study concluded:

- Manufacturers face 297,696 restrictions on their operations from federal regulations.
- Eighty-seven percent of manufacturers surveyed said that if compliance costs were reduced permanently and significantly, they would invest the savings on hiring, increased salaries and wages, more R&D or capital replacement.
- Ninety-four percent of manufacturers surveyed said the regulatory burden has gotten higher in the last 5 years, with 72 percent saying "significantly higher."

Industry Position

In general, the industry's input to regulatory proceedings follow the simple mantra that regulations should do more good than harm. Specifically, regulations should be based on sound science and a cost-benefit analysis, and should result in transparent requirements that encourage industry compliance over punitive enforcement.

115th Congress & White House

Congress is currently considering multiple pieces of legislation that would accomplish regulatory reform consistent with the industry's position. Specifically, the industry supports the **"Regulatory Accountability Act of 2017 (S. 951/H.R. 45),"** a bipartisan bill that seeks to improve the process for writing federal regulations and ensure a cost-benefit approach to achieving desired effectiveness of such regulation. The House bill passed as part of H.R. 5 on January 11th; the Senate bill passed the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on May 17 and full Senate action is pending. **Co-sponsorship and a floor vote is urged on this bill.** Industry also supports the **SCRUB Act (H.R. 998)**, which calls for a review of existing regulations to identify outdated or duplicative rules in order to streamline and simplify compliance for the desired outcome. The House passed H.R. 998 on March 1; **companion legislation in the Senate is encouraged.**

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