



Construction Industry Round Table

Legislative News

A force for positive change in the design / construction industry

2/11/14 – House Leadership Announces Regulatory Reform Bills Headed to Floor

The Republican leadership has laid out its plans for later this month to address the growing concern of an Administration “shirting” Constitutional limits and balances. The House of Representatives is tentatively looking at the week of February 24th to bring several regulatory reform bills to the floor. The Leadership’s theme is “STOP Government Abuse.” It is not clear, at this time, whether the legislation will come as separate bills or as a package. There could be as many as 12 bills coming to the floor. In the past, CIRT has supported regulatory reform efforts – especially those that sort to streamline or make more efficient the regulatory complex and/or those that sort to maintain the proper balance between the Executive and Legislative branches of government. Among the top candidates are the following bills:

1. H.R. 1493, *The Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act of 2013*, which addresses the “Sue and Settle” arrangements between agencies and environmental groups that result in Consent Decrees directing new rulemakings without public involvement in the settlement process.
2. H.R. 2122, *The Regulatory Accountability Act*, which modernizes the rulemaking process by allowing for greater transparency, a more comprehensive review of the science and economics submitted as part of comments, and more stringent review of High Impact regulations (those over \$1 billion in costs). AND
3. H.R. 2542, *The Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2013*, which would require agencies to describe alternatives to a proposed rule, identify the sectors of the economy impacted by a proposed rule, and expanding the powers of the SBA Office of Advocacy to issue rules to govern agency compliance with RFA requirements.

Other bills are also expected that will address Unfunded Mandates, FOIA, and property rights. IF you are interested in any of these matters, contact your Representatives to express your general support.