



Construction Industry Round Table

Legislative / Regulatory News

A force for positive change in the design / construction industry

01/07/2016 – Business Community Scores Early Success to Rein-In Federal Government Regulations

CIRT continued its participation with a large business-oriented coalition lead by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to seek “common sense” reform to the ever growing federal *regulatory complex*. Joining some 250 organizations from 45 different states, the multi-industry coalition sort to impress upon Congress how important this matter has become, with specific focus on the abusive practice of “sue and settle.” These efforts have garnered an “early” success with passage of H.R. 712, the “*Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act of 2015*,” which was adopted by the U.S. House of Representatives by a vote of (244–173). The bill contains three major titles that embody the principles of: accountability, transparency, and fairness. [Title I – the “*Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act*” (gets at the behind closed door practice of sue and settle whereby agencies enter into consent decrees with “friendly plaintiffs” whose policy objectives they agree with), Title II – the “*All Economic Rules are Transparent (ALERT) Act*” (would require agencies to disclose rulemakings the agency plans to propose or finalize to OIRA), and Title III – the “*Providing Accountability Through Transparency Act*” (would require federal agencies to notify the public of proposed rules each month)].

Next stop, the U.S. Senate where it is hoped and expected that the momentum from the House vote for H.R. 712 will spur action by the upper body to pass similar or identical legislation – which then can be reconciled and sent to the President’s desk for his signature before the close of 2016.