



The Roofing Industry Supports Regulatory Reform

The roofing industry supports the Regulatory Accountability Act (S. 951), legislation to reduce burdensome regulations by reforming the regulatory development process. This bipartisan legislation is sponsored in the Senate by Senators Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.), and a similar version of the bill was approved by the House in 2017.

Roofing industry employers have been inundated with new regulations issued by federal agencies in recent years. During the past decade, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has been particularly active in developing regulations that impose new burdens that neither improve safety nor address roofing industry concerns. The cumulative burden of regulations is highly disruptive to entrepreneurs seeking to grow their businesses and create jobs. We know the largest regulatory burdens fall on small businesses, but roofing industry firms of all sizes consistently cite regulatory burdens and the associated uncertainty as major obstacles to hiring.

The Regulatory Accountability Act (RAA) has been designed to update the federal regulatory process that has been in place for more than 70 years under the Administrative Procedures Act. This legislation includes the following reforms that will improve the regulatory process:

- Increased public participation in shaping major regulations, including consideration of economic impacts, before the regulations are formally proposed
- Improved cost-benefit analysis to minimize adverse economic impacts
- Holding agencies accountable with more on-the-record administrative hearings
- Providing more rigorous rules for the use of guidance documents by federal agencies

With these and other reforms, S. 951 will provide more opportunities for public input during the early stages of the regulatory process. This will ensure regulators base their decisions on accurate and up-to-date information, provide more transparency in the regulatory process and hold agencies more accountable to the public. For example, if the reforms in the RAA had been in place, the roofing industry would have had more of an opportunity to work with OSHA to address industry concerns during the early stages of development of the agency's silica regulation issued in 2016, as well as its Fall Protection Directive issued in 2010.

Ultimately, enactment of S. 951 will help ensure regulations are not overly burdensome on employers—our nation's job creators. The roofing industry urges the Senate to approve this bipartisan legislation needed to reform the outdated regulatory process and reduce burdens on businesses while still meeting public policy objectives that have broad support.

Request: Support the Regulatory Accountability Act to reduce burdensome regulations on employers.

**Questions? Contact NRCA's Washington, D.C. office at (202) 546-7584
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