

November 29, 2017

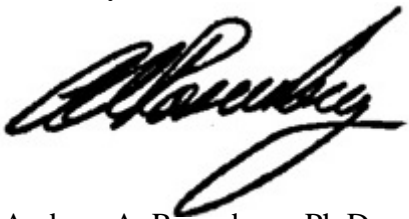
Dear Representative:

The Union of Concerned Scientists, with more than 500,000 members and supporters throughout the country, strongly opposes H.R. 2623, the Lessening Regulatory Costs and Establishing a Federal Regulatory Budget Act of 2017. The proposed legislation attempts to codify Executive Order 13771 by the Trump Administration, undermining science and eliminating critical public safeguards to satisfy an arbitrary 1 in 2 out regulatory budget with no fair consideration of the benefits of those regulations for public health and safety

H.R. 2623, if passed, would make permanent the harmful idea of a regulatory budget that the current administration is trying to implement. This bill will force agencies to ignore statutory mandates and only consider regulatory costs. If saving costs was the only relevant factor in creating pivotal public protections laws like the Clean Air Act, Congress would simply have chosen not to legislate. Instead, Congress has passed laws meant to protect the public and through rigorous scientific analysis. Regulations have been created according to statute to fulfill those obligations. No agency official should have to choose between making sure the air is clean for one community and making sure there isn't lead in the water of another.

Science and public health should be the determining factors on how to create public health, safety, and environmental protections. Putting arbitrary roadblocks to those protections in order to cut costs not only undermines the scientific basis of those protections, but also harms the communities those protections were created to help. **We urge you to vote 'no' on H.R. 2623 in the committee markup to protect vulnerable communities, families, and workers from arbitrary attacks on hard fought public safeguards and to protect the role of science in the rulemaking process.**

Sincerely,



Andrew A. Rosenberg, Ph.D.  
Director, Center for Science and Democracy  
Union of Concerned Scientists