To amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to require the termination of inactive investigations after a period of six months.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 28, 2016

Mrs. Brooks of Indiana (for herself, Mr. Lance, Mr. Harper, Mr. Olson, Mr. Pompeo, and Mr. Burgess) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to require the termination of inactive investigations after a period of six months.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the “Start Taking Action
5 on Lingering Liabilities Act” or the “STALL Act”.

6 SEC. 2. TERMINATION OF INACTIVE INVESTIGATIONS.

7 Section 20 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15
8 U.S.C. 57b–1) is amended—
(1) by redesignating subsection (j) as subsection (k); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (i) the following new subsection:

“(j) TERMINATION OF INACTIVE INVESTIGATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a covered investigation shall terminate at the expiration of the six-month period beginning on the date on which a covered verifiable written communication is sent by the Commission.

“(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply if—

“(A) an additional covered verifiable written communication is sent by the Commission during the period described in paragraph (1); or

“(B) the Commission votes to extend the covered investigation before the expiration of such period.

“(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) COVERED INVESTIGATION.—The term ‘covered investigation’ means an investigation conducted pursuant to this section in which the Commission has notified the person that is the subject of the investigation by verifiable written communication.
“(B) Covered verifiable written communication.—The term ‘covered verifiable written communication’ means a verifiable written communication relating to an investigation conducted pursuant to this section that is sent to the person that is the subject of the investigation.”.