January 12, 2015

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
235 Canon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
1705 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: The Regulatory Accountability Act, H.R. 185

Dear Leader Pelosi and Whip Hoyer:

On behalf of the American Association for Justice ("AAJ"), I strongly urge you to oppose H.R. 185, the Regulatory Accountability Act ("RAA"). AAJ, with members in United States, Canada and abroad, is the world’s largest trial bar. It was established in 1946 to safeguard victims’ rights, strengthen the civil justice system, promote injury prevention and foster accountability.

Our regulatory system provides essential public safeguards and is a critical mechanism to ensure the American public is protected from injury and illness. H.R. 185 amends the current regulatory process in a way that will severely limit the ability of government agencies to actually protect the public. H.R. 185 imposes so many new procedural and analytical requirements to the rulemaking process that it is likely that government agencies will no longer be able to regulate at all. For example, before an agency could propose a rule, it would be required to conduct an exhaustive analysis of all direct and indirect costs and benefits, not only of the proposal under consideration but also of any potential alternatives. The bill also requires that agencies choose the “least costly” regulatory option regardless of whether there might be options that would benefit the public more. These requirements would mandate extensive additional time and resources, are duplicative and would take agency resources away from other important regulatory activities. Moreover, additional steps in the rulemaking process such as mandatory use of the Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and increased judicial review also inhibit the ability of agencies to issue regulations.
Please stand up for the health and safety of the American public by voting against H.R. 185. The RAA vitiates decades of legislation passed to protect the American public. If you have any questions please contact AAJ’s Director of Regulatory Affairs, Sarah Rooney at (202) 944-2805.

Sincerely,

Linda Lipsen
Chief Executive Officer
American Association for Justice