

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 9, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

We write to request that Senate committees hold hearings prior to any floor votes on measures that would reverse recently enacted regulations pursuant to the Congressional Review Act. We believe the Senate should have a full dialogue and review before hastily voting on measures that would reverse public safety advances, environmental protections, consumer safeguards, or other similarly important measures.

As you know, the Congressional Review Act may allow Congress to overturn certain regulations that have recently been finalized. These regulations impact the lives of millions of Americans. Importantly, agencies typically enact such rules only after rigorous scrutiny through a public notice and comment period, which often includes public hearings. As lawmakers, it is our responsibility to respect that process by similarly scrutinizing any measure to abolish the rules through the Congressional Review Act, which is an extremely blunt instrument that could prevent an agency from promulgating a rule in the future that is substantially the same. Hearings and committee consideration of these critical issues are necessary for a comprehensive understanding of the ramifications of repeal of these rules and possible future protections. Reversal of these regulations shouldn't be rushed, and it shouldn't be done in an opaque process that limits the opportunity for public input.

It appears that you intend to take up measures that block federal regulations at a hasty and unprecedented pace. We believe that at the very least, the committees of jurisdiction must debate these measures in a transparent fashion prior to votes on the Senate floor. Anything short of this would be a disservice to the American people.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Al Franken
U.S. Senator



Tom Udall
U.S. Senator

Edward J. Markey

Edward J. Markey
U.S. Senator

Dianne Feinstein

Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senator

Maria Cantwell

Maria Cantwell
U.S. Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand

Kirsten Gillibrand
U.S. Senator

Chris Coons

Christopher A. Coons
U.S. Senator

Elizabeth Warren

Elizabeth Warren
U.S. Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse

Sheldon Whitehouse
U.S. Senator

Patrick Leahy

Patrick J. Leahy
U.S. Senator

Patty Murray

Patty Murray
U.S. Senator

Bill Nelson

Bill Nelson
U.S. Senator

Cory A. Booker

Cory A. Booker
U.S. Senator

Richard J. Durbin

Richard J. Durbin
U.S. Senator

Tom Carper

Thomas R. Carper
U.S. Senator

Brian Schatz

Brian Schatz
U.S. Senator

Amy Klobuchar

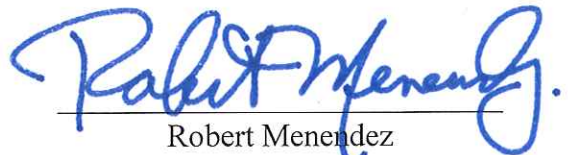
Amy Klobuchar
U.S. Senator

Ben Cardin

Benjamin L. Cardin
U.S. Senator



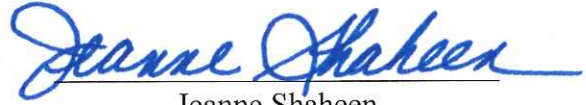
Jeff Merkley
U.S. Senator



Robert Menendez
U.S. Senator



Debbie Stabenow
U.S. Senator



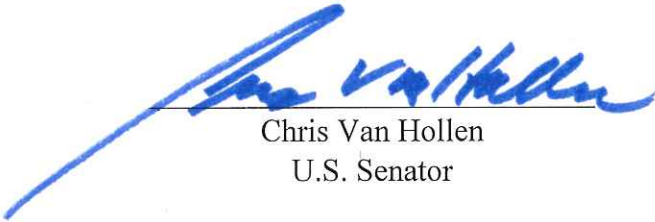
Jeanne Shaheen
U.S. Senator



Richard Blumenthal
U.S. Senator



Jack Reed
U.S. Senator



Chris Van Hollen
U.S. Senator



Tim Kaine
U.S. Senator