Regulatory Reform Principles

The Highway Materials Group (HMG) represent companies that provide the construction materials and equipment essential to building America’s roads, highways, and bridges. We employ tens of thousands of men and women in well-paying American jobs, and we represent many small businesses that help create America’s infrastructure. Although the safety and health of our employees is the number one priority for our members, they are concerned as the annual toll of regulations increases. American businesses must navigate an increasingly convoluted, duplicative and conflicting series of regulations. It is imperative that Federal regulation be based on sound science and common sense. We support congressional efforts to streamline and expedite the process for eliminating outdated and unneeded regulations that serve no purpose, and to ensure that new regulations do not unduly burden business with ever-increasing costs for ever-diminishing benefits.

In 2014 (the most recent year in which statistics are available), the Office of Management and Budget calculated that 13 major rulemakings alone cost U.S. businesses between 3.3-4 billion USD.¹ That is dwarfed by the overall cost of 1.88 trillion dollars for the 3,554 new regulations issued in 2014.² These numbers are drawn from what the agencies proposing these rules estimate the costs at, which can often be significantly lower than the real cost. A $1.88 trillion dollars in regulation costs is added to the amount already borne by businesses. This is an unsustainable system.

The HMG supports a more thoughtful approach to new regulations, as well as the ability to remove or update outdated regulations. The Highway Materials Group also supports regulatory reform bills that would specifically ease the ever-increasing burden on small businesses.

Congress has shown interest in reducing the regulatory burden on businesses, and has proposed numerous pieces of legislation that HMG supports broadly, including but not limited to:

- **S.2006 - Regulatory Accountability Act of 2015**
- **H.R.185 - Regulatory Accountability Act of 2015**
- **H.R.427 - Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015**
- **H.R.527 - Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2015**
- **H.R.712 - Sunshine for Regulations and Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act of 2016**
- **H.R.1407 - Regulatory Improvement Act of 2015**
- **H.R.2010 - Regulatory Review and Sunset Act of 2015**
- **H.R.2631 - Regulatory Predictability for Business Growth Act of 2015**
- **H.R.3328 - Small Business Regulatory Sunset Act of 2015**

The Highway Materials Group is committed to meaningful regulatory reform that will ease the regulatory burden on businesses, and will support legislation that takes a common sense approach to regulatory reform.

² [https://cei.org/10kc2015](https://cei.org/10kc2015)