

July 22, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives  
568 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Democratic Leader, U.S. House of Representatives  
2433 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson and Democratic Leader Jeffries:

The Coalition for Sensible Safeguards (CSS) and the undersigned organizations strongly support the **Stop Corporate Capture Act, H.R. 1507**.

To tackle the pressing challenges we face as a nation, we must have a robust, responsive, and inclusive federal regulatory system. We do not have such a regulatory system today. Instead, after decades of neglect and underinvestment, our regulatory system is now rife with delay, unbridled corporate influence, inadequate transparency, and weak public accountability. With long overdue, common-sense reforms, the regulatory system would be better able to keep up with innovation and technological advances and do more to further social justice and equity.

The Stop Corporate Capture Act is needed now more than ever in the wake of the disastrous decision by the Supreme Court to overturn the long-standing legal precedent of *Chevron* deference. Congress must act to codify *Chevron* deference into law in order to prevent any fallout from this Supreme Court decision. The decision undermines the ability of government agencies to do their job – that Congress gave them – to protect the public. If Congress does not act, many of the harms that *Chevron* deference intended to prevent, such as ensuring that unelected judges defer to agency experts and civil servants instead of substituting their own policy views when reviewing important regulatory safeguards, are likely to occur. Making *Chevron* deference the law of the land is critical to restoring separation of powers and stopping the judiciary from usurping power that Congress delegated to agencies that protect the public.

The Stop Corporate Capture Act offers the necessary comprehensive blueprint for modernizing, improving, and strengthening the regulatory system to protect the public from harm more effectively. It would level the playing field for all members of the public to have their views accounted for in regulatory decisions that affect them; promote scientific integrity; and restore our government's ability to deliver results for workers, consumers, public health, and the environment.

Among the essential reforms this bill would introduce are the following:

### **Restore Scientific Integrity and Independent Expertise**

The Stop Corporate Capture Act codifies *Chevron* deference, the long-standing legal principle that prevents judges from allowing their political preferences to influence their decisions in cases involving regulations. *Chevron* deference requires courts to defer to government agencies that Congress empowered to protect the public when an agency's interpretation of an ambiguous statute is reasonable. This makes sense, as agencies are the independent, subject-matter experts. The Act also requires anyone submitting scientific or other technical research to agencies during the rulemaking process to disclose any potential conflicts of interest the research may raise. In addition, a provision of the Act bars the White House from unreasonably delaying essential

safeguards by empowering agencies to resume work if the regulatory review process fails to conclude after 60 days. Importantly, the Act authorizes agencies to quickly reinstate any rules that were rescinded through the Congressional Review Act (CRA).

### **End Unbridled Corporate Influence**

The Stop Corporate Capture Act brings transparency to the “black box” of the White House regulatory review process, which has become a focal point for corporate lobbying. The Act accomplishes this by requiring disclosure of changes and the sources of those changes to draft rules during that process. Furthermore, the Act makes it a federal crime for corporations to submit false information in order to influence regulators during the rulemaking process.

### **Prioritize Social Justice and Equity**

The Stop Corporate Capture Act creates an Office of the Public Advocate, charged with promoting agencies’ public engagement practices and helping members of the public to participate more effectively in regulatory proceedings, especially people from structurally marginalized communities. The Office of the Public Advocate will research the social equity impacts of the regulatory process and perform social equity assessments of pending rules when requested by the public. The Act also strengthens agency procedures for notifying the public, particularly members of structurally marginalized communities and individuals who speak languages other than English, about pending rulemakings.

Congress must pass the Stop Corporate Capture Act to enact critical and long overdue reforms to our nation’s regulatory process that work for the public interest and restore judicial review of regulations by codifying *Chevron* deference. We once again urge you to support this necessary and groundbreaking bill.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO

AFT

American Atheists

American Bird Conservancy

American Economic Liberties Project

American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees

Americans for Financial Reform

Asbestos Disease Awareness Org

CAARMA Consumer Advocates Against Reverse Mortgage Abuse

Center for Auto Safety

Center for Digital Democracy

Center for Economic Justice

Center For Food Safety

Center for Justice & Democracy

Center for Progressive Reform

Center for Science in the Public Interest

Clean Air Council

Coalition for Sensible Safeguards

Colorado Fiscal Institute

Consumer Action

Consumer Federation of America

Consumer Federation of California

Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety

Cultivating Lives Educational Services, Inc

Delaware Community Reinvestment Action Council, Inc.

Earthjustice

Endangered Species Coalition

Economic Policy Institute

GenDemocracy; Stop the Coup 2025 campaign to stop Project 2025

Genesee Co-op Federal Credit Union

Good Jobs First

Government Information Watch

GreenLatinos

Greenpeace USA

Impact Fund

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility

International Center for Technology Assessment

Interfaith Power & Light

International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW)

Jobs to Move America

Kettle Range Conservation Group

Kids In Danger

Lawyers for Good Government

League of Conservation Voters

National Association of Consumer Advocates

National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low-income clients)

National Employment Law Project

National Health Law Program

New Jersey Association on Correction

NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice

Oregon Consumer Justice

People Power United

Physicians for Social Responsibility

Public Citizen

Public Justice Center

Rise Economy

Sierra Club

Small Business Majority

South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center

Southern Environmental Law Center

Texas Appleseed

The Conservation Angler

20/20 Vision

Union of Concerned Scientists

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice

United Steelworkers

U.S. PIRG

Virginia Citizens Consumer Council

VOICE (Voices Organized in Civic Engagement)

WE ACT for Environmental Justice

Zero Hour