



**Americans for Financial Reform**  
1629 K St NW, 10th Floor, Washington, DC, 20006  
202.466.1885

May 16, 2013

Dear Representative,

On behalf of Americans for Financial Reform, we are writing to express our opposition to HR 1062, the “SEC Regulatory Accountability Act”.<sup>1</sup> This legislation would imperil the implementation of many important financial regulatory rules by adding numerous unnecessary procedural requirements to rulemakings by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The SEC is already required to conduct economic analysis on every rule it passes, and to examine the effect of its rulemakings on capital formation, market efficiency, and competition. This legislation would add a lengthy list of additional cost-benefit requirements to these existing requirements. The new requirements in HR 1062 include a requirement to separately analyze the costs and benefits of the entire set of “available regulatory alternatives” in addition to the costs and benefits of the actual rule being considered. Since this set of alternatives may contain numerous possibilities, this requirement alone could add dozens of analyses prior to any new rulemaking. Even beyond this massive new requirement, the legislation also specifies a long list of additional analyses to be performed in connection with any new rulemaking, including analyses of the effect of new rules on market liquidity, investor choice, state and local governments, and other entities.

The requirements in this bill would force the agency to measure costs and benefits of a new rule before that rule was even implemented or market data resulting from the rule was available. They also include enormously broad and vague mandates such as determining whether a regulation imposes the ‘least burden possible’ among all possible regulatory options. A court could overturn the SEC’s decision in any case where it found any one of the numerous analyses required here to be inadequate. The vagueness of mandates like the ‘least burden possible’ means that court challenges or court decisions could rest on claims that are essentially speculative and theoretical. These new mandates would not improve the quality of the regulatory process; they would stop it in its tracks.

The lengthy list of new requirements in this bill is transparently intended to create roadblocks in the way of passing any investor protection rule. The effect would be to halt the process of implementing rules under the Dodd-Frank Act – and potentially also rulemakings under more

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<sup>1</sup> [Americans for Financial Reform](http://www.ourfinancialsecurity.org) is an unprecedented coalition of more than 250 national, state and local groups who have come together to reform the financial industry. Members of our coalition include consumer, civil rights, investor, retiree, community, labor, faith based and business groups.

recent laws such as the JOBS Act. Indeed, HR 1062 would put significant pressure on the SEC to disregard congressional mandates by making the agency evaluate the need for regulations that Congress has unequivocally directed the SEC to write. Further, the numerous additional procedural and analytical requirements imposed by this bill come with no additional funding for the SEC. Asking the SEC to do so much more without additional resources would make the current regulatory delays at the SEC -- evidenced by the numerous congressionally mandated deadlines it has missed -- even worse.

Reforms that create accountability and transparency for Wall Street are crucial to the well-being of our financial markets and to the protection of investors and market participants. But they will also change a very profitable status quo that earns a small group of Wall Street banks many billions of dollars each year. Financial industry special interests have every interest in blocking change. This legislation is a toolbox that would allow them to use legal challenges to do so indefinitely.

According to polling data, over 70 percent of Americans favor stronger rules and enforcement for big Wall Street banks and the financial services industry.<sup>2</sup> A large majority also favor the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act. In the face of the public's demand for change, Congress must reject legislation such as HR 1062, which, regardless of its intentions, would hamper effective oversight of our financial markets.

Thank you for your consideration. For more information please contact AFR's Policy Director, Marcus Stanley at [marcus@ourfinancialsecurity.org](mailto:marcus@ourfinancialsecurity.org) or 202-466-3672.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO  
AFSCME  
Americans for Financial Reform  
American Sustainable Business Council  
Center for Effective Government  
Citizens' Environmental Coalition  
Consumer Federation of America  
CounterCorp  
Demos  
Empire State Consumer Project  
Public Citizen  
SafeMinds  
United for a Fair Economy (UFE)  
U.S. PIRG

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<sup>2</sup> See Americans for Financial Reform summary memo on financial reform polling data, available at <http://ourfinancialsecurity.org/confirm-cordray-defend-the-cfpb/recent-polling-on-financial-reform-and-the-cfpb/>.

## **Following are the partners of Americans for Financial Reform.**

*All the organizations support the overall principles of AFR and are working for an accountable, fair and secure financial system. Not all of these organizations work on all of the issues covered by the coalition or have signed on to every statement.*

- AARP
- A New Way Forward
- AFL-CIO
- AFSCME
- Alliance For Justice
- American Income Life Insurance
- American Sustainable Business Council
- Americans for Democratic Action, Inc
- Americans United for Change
- Campaign for America's Future
- Campaign Money
- Center for Digital Democracy
- Center for Economic and Policy Research
- Center for Economic Progress
- Center for Media and Democracy
- Center for Responsible Lending
- Center for Justice and Democracy
- Center of Concern
- Center for Effective Government
- Change to Win
- Clean Yield Asset Management
- Coastal Enterprises Inc.
- Color of Change
- Common Cause
- Communications Workers of America
- Community Development Transportation Lending Services
- Consumer Action
- Consumer Association Council
- Consumers for Auto Safety and Reliability
- Consumer Federation of America
- Consumer Watchdog
- Consumers Union
- Corporation for Enterprise Development
- CREDO Mobile
- CTW Investment Group
- Demos
- Economic Policy Institute
- Essential Action
- Greenlining Institute
- Good Business International
- HNMA Funding Company

- Home Actions
- Housing Counseling Services
- Home Defender's League
- Information Press
- Institute for Global Communications
- Institute for Policy Studies: Global Economy Project
- International Brotherhood of Teamsters
- Institute of Women's Policy Research
- Krull & Company
- Laborers' International Union of North America
- Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
- Main Street Alliance
- Move On
- NAACP
- NASCAT
- National Association of Consumer Advocates
- National Association of Neighborhoods
- National Community Reinvestment Coalition
- National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low-income clients)
- National Consumers League
- National Council of La Raza
- National Council of Women's Organizations
- National Fair Housing Alliance
- National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions
- National Housing Resource Center
- National Housing Trust
- National Housing Trust Community Development Fund
- National NeighborWorks Association
- National Nurses United
- National People's Action
- National Urban League
- Next Step
- OpenTheGovernment.org
- Opportunity Finance Network
- Partners for the Common Good
- PICO National Network
- Progress Now Action
- Progressive States Network
- Poverty and Race Research Action Council
- Public Citizen
- Sargent Shriver Center on Poverty Law
- SEIU
- State Voices
- Taxpayer's for Common Sense
- The Association for Housing and Neighborhood Development
- The Fuel Savers Club
- The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
- The Seminal

- TICAS
- U.S. Public Interest Research Group
- UNITE HERE
- United Food and Commercial Workers
- United States Student Association
- USAction
- Veris Wealth Partners
- Western States Center
- We the People Now
- Woodstock Institute
- World Privacy Forum
- UNET
- Union Plus
- Unitarian Universalist for a Just Economic Community

*List of State and Local Affiliates*

- Alaska PIRG
- Arizona PIRG
- Arizona Advocacy Network
- Arizonans For Responsible Lending
- Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development NY
- Audubon Partnership for Economic Development LDC, New York NY
- BAC Funding Consortium Inc., Miami FL
- Beech Capital Venture Corporation, Philadelphia PA
- California PIRG
- California Reinvestment Coalition
- Century Housing Corporation, Culver City CA
- CHANGER NY
- Chautauqua Home Rehabilitation and Improvement Corporation (NY)
- Chicago Community Loan Fund, Chicago IL
- Chicago Community Ventures, Chicago IL
- Chicago Consumer Coalition
- Citizen Potawatomi CDC, Shawnee OK
- Colorado PIRG
- Coalition on Homeless Housing in Ohio
- Community Capital Fund, Bridgeport CT
- Community Capital of Maryland, Baltimore MD
- Community Development Financial Institution of the Tohono O'odham Nation, Sells AZ
- Community Redevelopment Loan and Investment Fund, Atlanta GA
- Community Reinvestment Association of North Carolina
- Community Resource Group, Fayetteville A
- Connecticut PIRG
- Consumer Assistance Council
- Cooper Square Committee (NYC)
- Cooperative Fund of New England, Wilmington NC
- Corporacion de Desarrollo Economico de Ceiba, Ceiba PR
- Delta Foundation, Inc., Greenville MS

- Economic Opportunity Fund (EOF), Philadelphia PA
- Empire Justice Center NY
- Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People (ESOP), Cleveland OH
- Enterprises, Inc., Berea KY
- Fair Housing Contact Service OH
- Federation of Appalachian Housing
- Fitness and Praise Youth Development, Inc., Baton Rouge LA
- Florida Consumer Action Network
- Florida PIRG
- Funding Partners for Housing Solutions, Ft. Collins CO
- Georgia PIRG
- Grow Iowa Foundation, Greenfield IA
- Homewise, Inc., Santa Fe NM
- Idaho Nevada CDFI, Pocatello ID
- Idaho Chapter, National Association of Social Workers
- Illinois PIRG
- Impact Capital, Seattle WA
- Indiana PIRG
- Iowa PIRG
- Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement
- JobStart Chautauqua, Inc., Mayville NY
- La Casa Federal Credit Union, Newark NJ
- Low Income Investment Fund, San Francisco CA
- Long Island Housing Services NY
- MaineStream Finance, Bangor ME
- Maryland PIRG
- Massachusetts Consumers' Coalition
- MASSPIRG
- Massachusetts Fair Housing Center
- Michigan PIRG
- Midland Community Development Corporation, Midland TX
- Midwest Minnesota Community Development Corporation, Detroit Lakes MN
- Mile High Community Loan Fund, Denver CO
- Missouri PIRG
- Mortgage Recovery Service Center of L.A.
- Montana Community Development Corporation, Missoula MT
- Montana PIRG
- Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project
- New Hampshire PIRG
- New Jersey Community Capital, Trenton NJ
- New Jersey Citizen Action
- New Jersey PIRG
- New Mexico PIRG
- New York PIRG
- New York City Aids Housing Network
- New Yorkers for Responsible Lending
- NOAH Community Development Fund, Inc., Boston MA
- Nonprofit Finance Fund, New York NY

- Nonprofits Assistance Fund, Minneapolis M
- North Carolina PIRG
- Northside Community Development Fund, Pittsburgh PA
- Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing, Columbus OH
- Ohio PIRG
- OligarchyUSA
- Oregon State PIRG
- Our Oregon
- PennPIRG
- Piedmont Housing Alliance, Charlottesville VA
- Michigan PIRG
- Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center, CO
- Rhode Island PIRG
- Rural Community Assistance Corporation, West Sacramento CA
- Rural Organizing Project OR
- San Francisco Municipal Transportation Authority
- Seattle Economic Development Fund
- Community Capital Development
- TexPIRG
- The Fair Housing Council of Central New York
- The Loan Fund, Albuquerque NM
- Third Reconstruction Institute NC
- Vermont PIRG
- Village Capital Corporation, Cleveland OH
- Virginia Citizens Consumer Council
- Virginia Poverty Law Center
- War on Poverty - Florida
- WashPIRG
- Westchester Residential Opportunities Inc.
- Wigamig Owners Loan Fund, Inc., Lac du Flambeau WI
- WISPIRG

***Small Businesses***

- Blu
- Bowden-Gill Environmental
- Community MedPAC
- Diversified Environmental Planning
- Hayden & Craig, PLLC
- Mid City Animal Hospital, Pheonix AZ
- The Holographic Repatterning Institute at Austin
- UNET

