

I voted Yes on H.R. 3010, the Regulatory Accountability Act of 2011.

H.R. 3010 modifies the federal rule-making process by requiring agencies to consider new criteria including alternatives, the scope of the problem the rule is meant to address, and costs and benefits of the proposal and its alternatives. The bill creates additional thresholds and criteria for regulations to be deemed major rules and high-impact rules — those rules likely to cost the economy more than \$100 million or \$1 billion a year.

The bill requires agencies to adopt the least costly rule proposal considered during the rule-making process, but a more costly rule could be adopted in cases where the benefits justify the costs, if the agency explains that the reason for doing so is in the interest of public health and welfare.

Overall, this legislation updates a 65-year old process and improves how agencies construct rules that have the most significant impact on jobs and growth. Today's regulatory environment is burdensome and economically significant rules have spiked in recent years. Some of these rules are certainly hindering growth and job creation Upstate. This bill ensures that the most expensive new rules are well-designed to accomplish their objectives without causing undue damage to the economy.

Importantly, this legislation wouldn't apply to regulations already in effect. The bill was approved by a vote of 253 – 167.