



Thomas A. Schatz

President

March 27, 2012

U.S. Representative
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative,

You will soon vote on H.R. 3309, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Process Reform Act of 2012. On behalf of the more than one million members and supporters of the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW), I urge you to support this legislation.

The rate at which federal agencies produce new rules is alarming. In 2009, the federal government issued 3,316 new rules and regulations, the equivalent of 1.6 rules per working hour. Many regulations are far-reaching and place significant new burdens on consumers and businesses. This is especially true at the FCC, even as wireline, wireless and cable providers continue to invest billions of dollars, create jobs, and remain competitive during a tough economy.

H.R. 3309 would streamline FCC operations and rulemakings by increasing transparency and accountability, and minimizing potential agency overreach. The legislation would require the FCC to identify a market failure or consumer harm before proposing new rules; conduct a cost benefit analysis before adopting major rules that will cost more than \$100 million and establish performance measures to evaluate the effectiveness of these major rules; publish the full text of proposed rules that are under consideration; provide adequate time for the public to provide comments; and set specific schedules to issue decisions and report back to Congress.

The legislation would also prohibit the FCC from conditioning a merger on a party's acceptance of certain policies or rules that are unrelated to the specifics of the transaction. American businesses should not be forced to swallow new requirements that lack relevance or policy justification at the expense of consumers and taxpayers.

I strongly urge you to support this important legislation to protect American taxpayers, businesses, and consumers from unnecessary regulatory burdens and to ensure a high standard of quality and accountability in the FCC's rule-making process. All votes on H.R. 3309 will be among those considered in CCAGW's *2012 Congressional Ratings*.

Sincerely,