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CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE, OF TEXAS

RULES COMMITTEE TALKING POINTS

H.R. 2401

**“THE TRANSPARENCY IN REGULATORY ANALYSIS OF
IMPACTS ON THE NATION ACT OF 2011”**

AMENDMENT # 4

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SEPTEMBER 20, 2011

I would like to thank the Chairman for the opportunity to explain my amendment to H.R. 2401, the Transparency in Regulatory Analysis of Impacts on the Nation (TRAIN) Act, which extends the public comment period from 90 to 120 days.

- In its current form, the TRAIN Act requires the EPA to conduct studies on the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards Rule and the Cross State Air Pollution Rule to analyze the effect of the regulations on the economy, U.S. competitiveness in the global market, employment, and energy production and cost.
- I have offered this amendment to extend the public comment period to ensure that the public who live in impacted states have ample time to comment on the various health impacts of these regulations. The implantation of the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards Rule and the Cross State Air Pollution Rule directly affects the air quality for millions of Americans,

and they should be afforded sufficient time to make their voices heard.

- The Mercury and Air Toxics Standard Rule will significantly reduce mercury and toxic air pollution from power plants and electric utilities. The EPA estimates that for every year this rule is not implemented, mercury and toxic air pollution will cause:
 - 17,000 premature deaths
 - 11,000 heart attacks
 - 120,000 cases of aggravated asthma
 - 12,000 hospital and emergency room visits
 - 11,000 cases of bronchitis
 - 850,000 missed work days
- The Cross State Air Pollution Rule will significantly cut sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions released into the

atmosphere. The regulation impacts 27 states where power plant emissions cause poor air quality that affects neighboring states.

- The Cross State Air Pollution Rule is intended to protect the public from dangerous air pollution and prevent up to 34,000 premature deaths, 15,000 heart attacks, and 400,000 cases of aggravated asthmas.
- The prolonged or indefinite delay of these life saving regulations threaten the very air that Americans, our constituents, breathe. I cannot speak for my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, but I certainly do not want to repeal regulations that protect the 18th Congressional District's access to clean air.
- **Since 1999, Houston has exchanged titles with Los Angeles for the poorest air quality in the nation. The**

poor air quality is attributed to the amount of aerosols, particles of carbon and sulfates in the air. The carcinogens found in the air have been known to cause cancer, particularly in children. The EPA is the very agency charged with issuing regulations that would address this serious problem. This bill may very well jeopardize the air that we breathe, the water that we drink, our public lands, and our public health by deep funding cuts in priority initiatives.

- Mr. Chairman, the analysis required by this legislation is focused solely on the impact of EPA regulations on economic competitiveness, fuel prices, and employment without taking into consideration the public health benefits of the regulations. If the bill will not address the serious public health concerns surrounding air quality, my amendment provides the public with adequate time to do so.

- My amendment will not affect the intent of the bill; it merely ensures that plenty of time is given for our constituents who live in states affected by mercury and toxic pollution and cross state air pollution to weigh in on the public health aspects of these regulations.
- I urge my colleagues to support my amendment and let the voices of all who wish to speak on these regulations be heard. Extending the comment period from 90 to 120 days will ensure that everyone's opinion is considered.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back the balance of my time.