



The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
H-232 The Capitol  
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Sessions  
Chairman, Committee on Rules  
United States House of Representatives  
H-312 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

September 14, 2016

Dear Speaker Ryan and Chairman Sessions,

As the House considers rules changes for the 115th Congress, we encourage you to consider a proposal to require committees to have recorded votes on legislation that would authorize or appropriate \$100 million or more. This rule change would help bring increased transparency to the work of the House, additional accountability to committees, and would mirror the spirit of H.R.427, the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act (REINS Act) of 2015 which passed the House overwhelmingly last year.

Under current practice, committees can commit a massive amount of taxpayer money to programs while evading a recorded vote. For example, this year the House Appropriations Committee passed nine of the committee's 12 spending bills by voice vote. ***With no recorded roll call votes, the committee proposed that the House appropriate over \$850 billion.*** All members of the House will be better informed about bills if committee members are on the record with recorded votes. This will help demonstrate the true level of support on committees for legislation. It is also a basic function of members to cast recorded votes to make their positions clear. Finally, recorded votes will help constituents better understand their representative's position on legislation. Recorded votes at committee level will result in better informed constituents which will in turn benefit our constitutional republic.

This proposed addition to the House rules follows the template found in the REINS Act. The REINS Act requires an affirmative congressional vote to approve a major regulation or rule of \$100 million or more. If the House must approve \$100 million or more in regulatory costs, in order to be fiscally constant, the House must require the same discipline from itself that it rightfully seeks to exert over the executive branch.

We encourage you and your colleagues to consider this proposed change to the House rules. It will help make the House, its committees, and its members more informed and accountable.

Sincerely,

FreedomWorks  
Campaign for Liberty  
Taxpayer Protection Alliance  
Taxpayers for Common Sense  
National Taxpayers Union