

# Reining In Regulators

BY REP. KRISTI NOEM

\$1.88 trillion – that’s how much federal regulations cost hardworking Americans overall in 2014 alone. \$14,976 – that’s how much, on average, those regulations cost each of us individually. 500 – that’s approximately how many new regulations costing more than \$100 million annually have gone into effect since President Obama took office. No matter how you add the numbers up, it is too much. This administration and the federal bureaucracy it controls must be reined in. Period.

On July 29, the House of

Representatives passed legislation that aims to provide more congressional oversight over the federal regulatory process. More specifically, the REINS Act, which is legislation I cosponsored, would require Congress to approve any regulation that costs the economy more than \$100 million annually. That may seem like a high bar, but approximately 80 regulations would have tripped that threshold last year alone.

A number of these regulations are derived by the EPA. For instance, last June, the EPA released new greenhouse gas emission

standards that apply to new as well as existing power plants. According to an October 2014 study by NERA Economic Consulting, the EPA’s proposal could cost consumers and businesses as much as \$41 billion per year. Additionally, the Heritage Foundation estimates that by 2030, the costs could rise to a total income loss of more than \$7,000 per person.

We all want to preserve our environment for future generations, but in a state like South Dakota, the costs associated with a regulation like this could prove devastating. Families in South

Dakota that earn less than \$50,000 per year already spend one-fifth of their after-tax income on energy costs, which is double the national average. Many can’t afford to pay even more.

Of course, the EPA’s upcharges don’t end there. I’ve heard from many South Dakotans about their concerns with a new “Waters of the U.S.” definition that the EPA released. It grossly expands the agency’s reach, giving them regulatory authority over many streams, ditches, sloughs, and even areas that are only wet seasonally. The expanded authority would empower them to

fine property owners tens of thousands of dollars per violation – per day.

The EPA is eager to utilize this authority too. Last year – before the expansion was finalized – the agency threatened to go after a Wyoming farmer for digging a stock dam on his own property. He explains they threatened a \$75,000-a-day fine. After heavy pressure from Wyoming’s congressional delegation, the EPA backed down. Even so, no farmer, rancher, or citizen should have to endure those unnecessary headaches at the hand of an overzealous federal agency. I share con-

cerns that this story won’t be the last.

Federal regulators shouldn’t be able to operate in a bubble. It’s time they are forced to think twice before finalizing ill-considered, needlessly costly and simply unnecessary regulations. That is what the REINS Act intends to do. I’m hopeful we can see this necessary legislation move forward in the Senate and make its way to the President’s desk. You deserve greater accountability.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**WOLF FAMILY REUNION HELD:** The 2015 Wolf Family Reunion was held on July 24, 25, and 26, 2015 at Howard, S.D. Gary and Bonnie Wolf’s family hosted the event. We were very blessed to have six of the Wolf siblings and over 125 relatives attend the weekend from over eleven different states. Those in attendance enjoyed good conversation, food, games, golfing, and Karaoke. Great fun was had by all! Pictured are the siblings of Martin and Lillian Wolf that were in attendance. They are: (back, l-r) Gary Wolf, Tom Wolf, Lefty Wolf; (front) Ron Wolf, Mary Poncelet, and Leo Wolf.

## Tyler Madsen Recieves Scholarship



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Vermillion Public Schools Foundation is pleased to announce that Tyler Madsen is the 2015 recipient of the Ribs, Rods & Rock’n Roll Scholarship for Technical Education. Tyler was the Senior Team Captain in football as well as an All Conference player. He was also involved with the St. Agnes Youth Group. Tyler plans to attend Mitchell Technical Institute to study agricultural technology. He is the son of Bob Madsen and Angie Madsen. We wish Tyler great success in his career.

This scholarship was presented to Vermillion High School students by Ribs, Rods & Rock’n Roll, an organization dedicated to celebrating and preserving Vermillion’s rich

and unique history of community barbeque through their signature event each fall in downtown Vermillion. Proceeds from the poker run, held in conjunction with Ribs & Rods car show, help fund this scholarship.

The VPS Foundation is interested in expanding its scholarship awards to future VHS seniors. If your group has considered creating a vocational technical scholarship for Vermillion High School seniors for their post-graduate studies, please contact Susan Tuve, President of Vermillion Public Schools Foundation, at [susan.tuve@usdfoundation.org](mailto:susan.tuve@usdfoundation.org) for further information.

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**Cindy Knudsen, Administrative Office**  
17 Prospect Street  
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Application can also be found at:  
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