

The Virgin Islands Consortium

In Fight Against Republican Efforts To Undermine Federal Regulations, Plaskett Offers Amendment To Defund SCRUB Act

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Virgin Islands Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett in a press release issued on Tuesday said she was rallying against the use of taxpayer funding to establish a partisan, unelected commission with subpoena powers to usurp the authority of Congress and jeopardize public health.

H.R. 998, the Searching for and Cutting Regulations that are Unnecessarily Burdensome (SCRUB) Act of 2017, proposes to use \$30 million in taxpayer funding to establish a commission with unlimited subpoena authority to review federal agency rules and make

recommendations to Congress on which rules should be eliminated, according to a release from Ms. Plaskett's office.

"This legislation is nothing more than a clandestine attempt to advance corporate interests at taxpayer expense," she said. "It will take regulatory review out of the hands of subject-matter experts and place it with a partisan commission appointed by the president.

"At best, this bill will increase bureaucracy and waste money. Congress already has the authority to review agency rules for repeal. At worst, it will severely jeopardize public health and safety, as it would impose a "cut-go" provision in which an agency would have to repeal an existing rule and be forced to provide a cost offset to issue a new rule, even in the case of public health or national security emergencies.

"This bill is a shameful display of Republican hypocrisy. Chairman Chaffetz, who has fast tracked this bill with no real review out of oversight has been adamantly opposed to increasing cost in the federal government. He now sees it fit to do so at a cost of \$30 Million. The goal of reducing the burden of red tape on small businesses is one that I share. However, House leaders have usurped this bi-partisan goal to produce a bill that they know cannot receive bi-partisan support because it will inhibit agencies from doing their most basic functions, even in the case of an emergency or threat to public health. This Congress has money to throw at solutions in search of a problem, but requires cost offsets to provide aid for victims of the Flint Water Crisis or toward Zika funding," the congresswoman said.

Ms. Plaskett's amendment would eliminate the use of tax dollars for the establishment and function of the SCRUB Act.