



November 29, 2011

Honorable Howard Coble
Chair, Subcommittee on Courts, Commercial
And Administrative Law
2188 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Steve Cohen
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Courts, Commercial and
Administrative Law
1005 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Coble and Ranking Member Cohen:

The National Treasury Employees Union, representing over 150,000 federal employees in 31 different agencies, writes to you in opposition to HR 1996, the Government Litigation Savings Act. This bill seeks to undo an important tool that allows groups such as veterans, seniors, small businesses and non-profits to challenge illegal government actions. HR 1996 would end the right to challenge harmful government actions by requiring those seeking action to have a direct and personal interest in the case. The impetus for this legislation is apparent – testimony in favor of the bill invoked the notion of “wealthy radical environmental groups” to show how the law has been abused. But the original legislation, the Equal Access to Justice Law, already has provisions designed to discourage frivolous or marginal cases.

While we agree that reporting requirements for EAJA cases should be reinstated, we believe a more sensible approach would be to gather such data and THEN determine if any substantial problems exist. We ask that you reconsider seeking floor action on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colleen M. Kelley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

Colleen M. Kelley
National President