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The Honorable Jodey Arrington  
Chairman, House Budget Committee  
204 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Arrington:

On behalf of the Foundation for Government Accountability (FGA), I write to express our strong support for H.R. 8195, the Strengthening Administrative Pay-As-You-Go (SAP) Act of 2024 that was introduced earlier this month. As an organization dedicated to government accountability and fiscal responsibility, we have been highly encouraged by your commitment as Chairman of the House Budget Committee to finding innovative and effective ways to slow the runaway growth of government, and we commend your leadership in the House to find ways to strengthen and institute permanent safeguards against executive regulatory actions.

As you know, Administrative Pay-As-You-Go requirements have never been more important than they are under the current administration. Under President Biden, regulatory spending has never been less than \$1 trillion in any year. By comparison, under *every previous president in American history*, it has never been higher than \$1 trillion in any year. This has a very real cost on the American economy: According to research from our organization, the cost of regulatory compliance has reached stifling levels—Americans spend more than 10 billion hours each year on compliance at a cost of more than \$140 billion per year.

The 2023 Fiscal Responsibility Act, thanks to your support and leadership, contained a provision to require major regulations to be paid for with spending cuts elsewhere—any new government regulation that increases spending by \$100 million in one year or \$1 billion over 10 years must be offset by spending costs. Unfortunately, this provision expires at the end of 2024. The SAP Act wisely deletes this expiration date, making the provision permanent.

The legislation makes several other important changes as well to ensure that the implementation of Administrative Pay-As-You-Go matches legislative intent. Among other provisions, it ensures that administrative action covered under this law is budget neutral and requires the administration to accurately report on the number of waivers granted, as well as the number of waiver determinations expected to be submitted.

These provisions are, unfortunately, an absolute necessity because of the Biden administration's clear misinterpretation of both the meaning and the intent of the law. The Biden administration's Office of Management and Budget has yet to implement the full scope of Administrative PAYGO, instead abusing its waiver authority to continue spending taxpayer dollars outside of Congress's purview. This was not the goal of the legislation, as you know. Furthermore, these waivers are intentionally obfuscated within the Federal Register, hindering Congress's ability to conduct proper oversight. These misinterpretations—unintentional or otherwise—are fully clarified with the SAP Act.

Regulatory spending should not be a partisan issue. The administrations of President Obama, President Trump, and President Biden have each expressed support for some version of this legislation, but actions speak louder than words. In 2019, President Trump installed Administrative PAYGO's very first implementation with Executive Order 13893—an order that President Biden repealed on his first day in office.

Today, Congress can take real action in support of government accountability, fiscal responsibility, and unleashing America's economy from the shackles of overaggressive government regulation. The SAP Act represents a pivotal step toward achieving true fiscal responsibility in government operations, addressing systemic flaws in the administration's approach to government spending, and establishing a more sustainable and accountable framework for government regulations and spending in our country.

Again, I want to extend my thanks and my support to you, House Budget Committee Oversight Task Force Chair Jack Bergman, and every Republican member of the House Budget Committee for your attention to—and more importantly, your action in support of—fiscal responsibility in our government for generations to come. We urge the swift passage of the SAP Act and stand ready to support the Committee's efforts to advance this critical legislation. Thank you again for your leadership on this vital issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tarren Bragdon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tarren Bragdon  
*President and CEO*  
Foundation for Government Accountability