



AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

July 10, 2018

The Honorable Jeb Hensarling, *Chairman*
House Committee on Financial Services
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Maxine Waters, *Ranking Member*
House Committee on Financial Services
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Dear Chairman Hensarling and Ranking Member Waters:

I write in strong opposition to H.R. 1611, the Gender Diversity in Corporate Leadership Act of 2017. This legislation falls well outside the intended purpose of the Securities and Exchange Commission's mission and does nothing to protect investors.

Under Dodd-Frank's "Miscellaneous Provisions," or Title XV, there has been a concerted push by some in Congress to compel the SEC to become an activist agency by forcing companies to disclose mine safety violations, resource extraction in countries abroad and "conflict minerals originating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo." Instead, the agency has to dedicate staff and resources to monitoring these issues instead of properly using staff to oversee financial markets and protect against fraud as intended with its creation.

This legislation in essence adds to Title VX of Dodd-Frank by continuing the practice of inserting the government in between private enterprises and their shareholders. Additionally, this provides the SEC with rule making authority to require additional information already publicly available with the threat of enforcement if companies choose to alter their current practices of providing this information in their proxy statements to shareholders.

I am concerned that H.R. 1611 also leaves the door open for future legislation that would further obligate the SEC, or any other government agency, to engage in social rule making and demand companies to adopt practices that decrease shareholder value for political purposes.

If companies wish to engage in practices that promote social causes, it should be for them to decide, free from government intervention. For these reasons, **I urge members of this Committee to vote against H.R. 1611** and I encourage free market supporters to do the same.

Sincerely,

Grover G. Norquist
President
Americans for Tax Reform