States Can and Should Restrain Regulators

As your April 30 editorial "The EPA Unchained" points out, the courts have given federal regulators enormous power with little accountability.

The Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act, passed in the House with bipartisan support requiring that Congress approve major federal regulations, is unlikely to get 60 Senate votes or a presidential signature, even though polls show voters like the idea.

But state legislators in two-thirds of the states could force Congress to propose a similar "Regulation Freedom" amendment to the U.S. Constitution just as the states forced Congress to propose the original Bill of Rights.

Congress will do almost anything to avoid a convention that would be more powerful than Congress. Two-thirds of the states working together would also have the power to safely limit their delegates to an up-or-down vote on just the amendment states wanted.

Perhaps it is time for state leaders to do what the authors of our Constitution intended them to do—rein in the abuse of power in Washington.

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THE REGULATION FREEDOM AMENDMENT

"Whenever one quarter of the Members of the U.S. House or the U.S. Senate transmit to the President their written declaration of opposition to a proposed federal regulation, it shall require a majority vote of the House and Senate to adopt that regulation."

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