

U.S. Senator Malcolm Wallop
(1933-2011)
Founder

George C. Landrith
President



4094 MAJESTIC BLVD, SUITE 380
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22033
(703) 246-0110 • Fax (703) 246-0129
www.FF.org • www.OpEds.com

Statement of George Landrith, president of Frontiers of Freedom, released on January 6, 2014.

On behalf of our members and supporters all across the nation, we express our support for three bills (H.R. 2279 and both H.R. 2318 and 2226 which will be folded into H.R. 2279) that will remove antiquated regulatory deadlines in CERCLA cleanups. We also support the approach adopted that will elevate State roles and participation in CERCLA cleanups. These are needed reforms.

The EPA has acknowledged that “the complexity and volume” of EPA regulations imposes a significant burden on EPA as it tries to oversee its environmental obligations. These reforms provide regulatory flexibility in determining revised regulations under the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

We also believe it is wise to acknowledge the role of States in environmental regulation. The States are closer to the sites being cleaned and to the citizens who will benefit from such clean ups. Thus, we believe it is dead on right to encourage federal regulators to involve state regulators, rather than preempting state involvement.

Another important element of these reforms is that federal facilities are held to the same standards as a private entity doing a CERCLA cleanup. Too often the federal government places itself above the law or gives itself a lower set of standards to achieve. We believe that what is good for the goose is good for the gander. The rule of law requires equality before the law. These reforms move us closer to that important goal.

Finally, these reforms require the EPA to consult with States when undertaking any removal or clean up action in that State. Other similar provisions ensure that the EPA will work with the States, rather than against them. This is consistent with the principle of Federalism. The States should not be treated as mere geographical subdivisions of the nation. We are pleased, that among other things, these reforms strengthen Federalism.