**CIRT News**

**A force for positive change in the design / construction industry**

**05/22/2017 – Study Pulls the Curtain Back on the Spreading Use of “Sue and Settle” by Federal Agencies**

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce released a new report, called:*Sue and Settle Updated: Damage Done 2013-2016.* The report identifies 77 consent decrees between advocacy groups and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from January 2013 – January 2017.  While the original Chamber report in May 2013: *Sue and Settle: Regulating Behind Closed Doors,*involved new federal agreements, the updated report covers more recent agreements often involving outside groups pressuring EPA to overrule state-level environmental decisions without input from the states.

Among the most egregious of direct federal actions imposed upon the states via sue and settle is EPA’s widespread imposition of Federal Implementation Plans (FIPs). Since 2010 EPA has not only imposed an extremely large number of FIPs, the EPA has imposed them on nearly every state (40 total) across the country.

The report, part of a [ten-part series](https://www.uschamber.com/etra), suggests nine recommendations that the EPA and Congress should take in order to end the practice of sue and settle agreements, including urging Congress to enact the *Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act* (which CIRT has supported over the years).  This act would bring transparency and public participation to the federal regulatory process.

To read the full report, visit the Chamber’s website [www.uschamber.com/etra](http://www.uschamber.com/etra) or [click here](https://www.uschamber.com/report/sue-and-settle-updated-damage-done-2013-2016).