

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 6, 2017

The Honorable James N. Mattis  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Defense  
1300 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On January 30, 2017, the President issued Executive Order 13771, establishing a cap on federal regulatory costs and requiring agencies to repeal at least two regulations for each new regulation issued.<sup>[1]</sup> Subsequently, on February 24, 2017, the President issued Executive Order 13777, requiring each agency to establish a Regulatory Reform Task Force for the purpose of recommending agency rules to be repealed, replaced, or modified to alleviate unnecessary regulatory burdens.<sup>[2]</sup> These orders represent important steps toward modernizing the federal regulatory system and reducing outdated, ineffective, or otherwise unnecessary regulations.

To date, many agencies have made substantial progress in implementing the President's orders. The Department of Education's Task Force, for example, proactively published the first Task Force progress report, which included a complete list of members, a list of regulations under consideration, details about public outreach, and additional work plans.<sup>[3]</sup> The Environmental Protection Agency established a website that includes information about public outreach, membership of the Task Force, and solicitation of comments.<sup>[4]</sup> Several other agencies have proactively released information as well.<sup>[5]</sup>

On the other hand, some agencies have shared little to no information about their Task Forces with Congress or the public. It remains unclear whether all agencies have established a Regulatory Reform Task Force or identified a Regulatory Reform Officer at all. Accordingly, to assist the Committee in understanding the extent to which your agency has implemented the President's executive orders, we request that you provide our committee staff a briefing on the work of your agency's task force by September 20, 2017.

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<sup>[1]</sup> Exec. Order No. 13771, 82 C.F.R. 9,339 (2017).

<sup>[2]</sup> Exec. Order No. 13777, 82 C.F.R. 12,285 (2017).

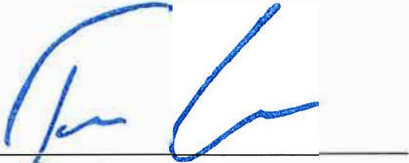
<sup>[3]</sup> DEP'T OF EDUCATION, REGULATORY REFORM TASK FORCE PROGRESS REPORT (May 2017), *available at* <https://www2.ed.gov/documents/press-releases/regulatory-reform-task-force-progress-report.pdf>.

<sup>[4]</sup> *Id.*

<sup>[5]</sup> *E.g.*, Dept. of Interior, Regulatory Reform, 82 Fed. Reg. 28,429 (June 22, 2017) (proposed rule request for comments).

Thank you for your prompt attention to our request. Please contact Christina Aizcorbe of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee staff at (202) 225-5074 or Dan Huff of the Judiciary Committee staff at (202) 225-3951 with any questions about this request.

Sincerely,



Trey Gowdy  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and  
Government Reform



Bob Goodlatte  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary



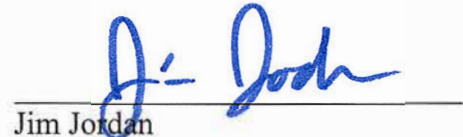
Mark Meadows  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Government Operations



Tom Marino  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform,  
Commercial and Antitrust Law



Gary J. Palmer  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Affairs



Jim Jordan  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Healthcare, Benefits,  
and Administrative Rules

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr., Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Government Operations

The Honorable David N. Cicilline, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law

The Honorable Val Butler Demings, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Affairs

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Healthcare, Benefits, and Administrative Rules

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney, Director  
Office of Management and Budget

The Honorable Neomi Rao, Administrator  
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs