

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM
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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

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MINORITY (202) 225-5074
<https://oversight.house.gov>

July 17, 2020

Brad Close
President and Chief Executive Officer
National Federation of Independent Business
1201 F Street NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Brad,

As Ranking Member on the Committee on Oversight and Reform minority, I am launching an examination of recent trends in regulation and regulatory reform. The intent is to document what has worked and what hasn't since the time of the Committee's last initiative of this kind, which took place in 2011. With your help, it will be possible to examine concretely the effects of the Obama Administration's regulatory expansion and the Trump Administration's regulatory relief initiatives, as well as to capture a sense of what regulatory developments will be most important to promote or avoid over the course of the next several years. As our Nation attempts to recover from the economic shock of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is critical to examine the impacts of regulation and regulatory reform since our last, similar shock, the Financial Crisis of 2008. We must be sure not to repeat mistakes that followed the last crisis, and we must be vigilant to continue with what has succeeded.

Possible examples, for good or for ill, abound from the time since 2008. Some are widely known; others are not. The aim is to learn not only of the obvious examples, but to assemble a comprehensive set of information rooted in real-world experiences – the good, the bad, and the ugly. With that in mind, please provide letters or other written materials that would provide insights into your business' or member businesses' experiences and views concerning the following subjects:

1. Individual regulations, regulatory programs and regulatory reform initiatives promulgated or instituted since 2008 that significantly impacted your business' or member businesses' abilities to create or maintain jobs, provide consumers with goods or services, obtain credit, supplies, energy, or other important inputs, compete fairly with other businesses, expand or

locate operations or sales, innovate, or grow as much as or more than otherwise would have been possible;

2. Individual regulations and regulatory programs rescinded or modified since 2008 in ways that significantly impacted your business' or member businesses' abilities to create or maintain jobs, provide consumers with goods or services, obtain credit, supplies, energy, or other important inputs, compete fairly with other businesses, expand or locate operations or sales, innovate, or grow as much as otherwise would have been possible;
3. Individual regulations or regulatory programs that have adversely impacted your business' or member businesses' abilities to survive or create or maintain jobs, operations or growth during the COVID-19 pandemic;
4. Your business' or member businesses' experiences that show it would be important to rescind or modify specific regulations or regulatory programs, or suspend or modify their enforcement temporarily, in order to facilitate recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic;
5. Potential new regulations, regulatory programs, or regulatory reform initiatives that your business' or member businesses' experiences show to be of the kinds that are most important to avoid, imitate or expand as our Nation seeks to recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and grow its economy in the succeeding years;
6. Past regulations or regulatory programs that your business' or member businesses' experiences show would be important not to reimpose as our Nation seeks to recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and grow its economy in the succeeding years; and,
7. Other suggestions on how individual regulations, regulatory programs, regulatory reforms, the rulemaking process in general, or regulatory enforcement could be improved.

Please feel free to describe any and all positive or negative impacts or experiences. Please also provide information not only about regulations, programs and initiatives that directly affected your business or member businesses, but also those that affected them indirectly through impacts on customers, suppliers, distributors, utilities, or others. In addition, please feel free to convey to me your experiences and views concerning any other regulatory issues that have been important to your business or member businesses but are not described above.

I am writing to you and businesses and associations like yours or your members' because you are the ones on the front lines of regulatory impacts. As outdated or

inefficient regulations and programs are lifted or improved, you or your members experience first-hand the ways in which businesses are able to provide more jobs, goods and services that benefit us all. Similarly, as new regulations and programs are imposed, you or your members experience directly whether they are efficiently producing high benefits at low costs or instead are backfiring.

Please submit your response as soon as possible, preferably before September 7, 2020. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either Daniel Flores or Bill Womack at (202) 225-5074.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Comer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" and last name "Comer" clearly distinguishable.

James Comer
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform