



January 30, 2013

The Honorable Pat Roberts
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Roberts:

The National Federation of Independent Business is pleased to support the Regulatory Responsibility for our Economy Act of 2013. This measure would codify commonsense regulatory reforms endorsed by recent presidents of both parties.

Excessive and complex regulatory burdens continue to be a hardship for many small business owners across America. In NFIB's most recent *Small Business Economic Trends*, "government requirements and red tape" ranked as the second-most frequent answer when NFIB members were asked to identify the single most important facing their small business. More than one in five respondents cited regulation as the biggest problem.

In January 2011, President Obama issued Executive Order 13563, which asserted important principles in the regulatory process. These principles include ensuring that regulatory benefits justify the costs, that rules are reviewed periodically to see if they are still necessary, and that regulations have flexible compliance mandates. E.O. 13563 affirmed many of the regulatory process objectives of Presidents Bush and Clinton.

The Regulatory Responsibility for our Economy Act would strengthen this executive order by making it law. The legislation would require agencies to give the public a minimum of 60 days for comment on proposed regulations, ensure that required analyses are included in the docket in a timely manner, and make all provisions of the act judicially reviewable.

The Regulatory Responsibility for our Economy Act is an important piece of legislation that would provide for a better rulemaking process for small business owners. NFIB looks forward to working with you to ensure it becomes law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Eckerly". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Susan Eckerly
Senior Vice President
Public Policy

National Federation of Independent Business

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Statement by J.D. Alexander on the Regulatory Responsibility Act of 2013

“This administration has caused a regulatory train wreck, all at the expense of hard-working American taxpayers. While there is a need for some common sense regulation, there is also a need for Congressional oversight. Strapping the American people with burdensome, unnecessary regulations that increase operating costs and red tape serves only to stifle the American economy,” Alexander said. “The Regulatory Responsibility for our Economy Act of 2013 doesn’t put a stop to regulations. It simply gives Congress the opportunity for greater oversight on major regulations and requires regulation be narrowly tailored to meet the intended goals without hindering the economy. We commend Senator Roberts for his leadership on this issue.”

“Cattlemen and women work each day raising healthy cattle to feed your family and mine. In addition to taking care of their animals and providing food and fiber, farmers and ranchers have to strive to make a profit and many times there’s no profit at all. Burdening them with overreaching regulations harms their family operation and in turn hampers economic growth in rural America,” Alexander said. “Overzealous regulators who were not elected and who do not answer to the American people need to be held accountable for their actions. The Regulatory Responsibility Act of 2013 will ensure that the merit of future regulation is weighed against its economic impact.”

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

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January 29, 2013

The Honorable Pat Roberts
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Roberts:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region, commends you for introducing the Regulatory Responsibility for our Economy Act of 2013. This legislation would take important steps toward restraining excessive agency power and promoting sound regulatory policy.

The only way to have sound regulations is for agencies to carefully consider their regulatory actions. By taking steps, such as conducting cost-benefit analyses and considering the cost of regulatory alternatives, agencies could reduce the burden on businesses while more effectively achieving regulatory objectives. Further, many existing regulations are outdated or have proven to be ineffective. Agencies should eliminate or modify these flawed or outdated regulations on a periodic basis.

The Regulatory Responsibility for our Economy Act would take these common-sense steps. The Chamber looks forward to working with you on regulatory reform and this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Bruce Josten", written in a cursive style.

R. Bruce Josten