



January 12, 2015

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the nation's leading small-business advocacy organization, I am writing in support of H.R. 185, *the Regulatory Accountability Act of 2015*. This legislation would modernize the nearly 69-year old Administrative Procedure Act and improve how federal agencies write the regulations that most significantly affect the U.S. economy. **H.R. 185 will be considered an NFIB Key Vote for the 114th Congress.**

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* survey, "government requirements and red tape" ranked as the second-most frequent answer when NFIB members were asked to identify the single most important issue impacting their small businesses. More than one in five members cited this response as the biggest problem. Small businesses need regulatory reform that will ensure that future regulatory actions will accurately reflect a rule's cost on the economy, and provide certainty that agencies will choose the least-costly regulatory option that meets statutory goals.

H.R. 185 would build on established principles of fair regulatory process and review embodied in executive orders since the Clinton administration. These principles make the regulatory process more transparent, agencies more accountable, and regulations more cost-effective. This legislation would not affect any regulations that are already in effect, nor would it impact enforcement under current regulations.

Specifically, the legislation would increase public participation in shaping the most costly regulations before they are proposed; require that agencies must choose the least costly option unless they can demonstrate a need to protect public health, safety, or welfare; and provide for on-the-record administrative hearings for the most costly regulations to make certain agency data is well tested and reviewed. In short, H.R. 185 will help ensure that federal agencies produce more sensible regulations.

NFIB strongly supports H.R. 185 and will consider it an NFIB Key Vote for the 114th Congress. We look forward to working with you to protect small business as the 114th Congress moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda Austin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amanda Austin
Vice President
Public Policy