



September 9, 2015

The Honorable Rob Portman
United States Senate
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Portman:

On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the nation's leading small business advocacy organization, I am writing in support of S. 2006, *the Regulatory Accountability Act of 2015*. This legislation would modernize the nearly 69-year old Administrative Procedure Act and would improve how federal agencies write the regulations that most significantly affect the U.S. economy.

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 problem facing their small business. One in five respondents cited regulation as the biggest problem.

S. 2006 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 the rulemaking process; would require that agencies must choose the least costly option unless they can demonstrate a need to protect public health, safety, or welfare; and would provide for on-the-record administrative hearings for the most costly regulations to insure that agency data is well tested and reviewed. In short, S. 2006 would require that federal agencies produce more sensible regulations.

The Regulatory Accountability Act of 2015 is an important piece of legislation that would provide for a better rulemaking process for small business owners. 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
NFIB