

FreedomWorks Foundation: Battling the Regulatory State

The results of the 2016 elections could prove to be a game-changer in our ongoing battle to roll back the regulatory state.

So far, the initial moves from the White House have been positive in this regard.

The White House has already issued a regulatory freeze and, separately, required federal agencies to repeal two regulations for every new one issued.

President Trump has also instructed White House OMB Director Mick Mulvaney to develop a plan to organize the Executive Branch to get rid of redundancies.

With the new realities, FreedomWorks Foundation is preparing to aid the Trump administration as it seeks to reduce the red tape that is strangling the American spirit of entrepreneurship.

Recently, FreedomWorks Foundation brought Patrick Hedger on board to serve as its program manager.

Patrick joins FreedomWorks Foundation from the Charles Koch Institute, where he served as a senior policy analyst. He was a policy analyst at FreedomWorks from 2012 to 2014.

Targeting Regulations

FreedomWorks Foundation is currently advancing regulatory reform in three specific policy areas. First, the Foundation is targeting a regulation promulgated by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that allows private contractors to conduct audits. This opens the door to breaches of taxpayer privacy and cronyism.

The Foundation is also preparing to ramp up against a regulation that was announced by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that severely restricts smokeless tobacco. The regulation was announced by the FDA literally



FreedomWorks in the News

THE AMERICAN SPECTATOR

OP-ED, by Ken Cuccinelli, General Counsel to the FreedomWorks Foundation's Regulatory Action Center

"Eye on the IRS: Déjà Vû: Private Tax Collection Leads to Corruption"

AMERICAN BANKER

OP-ED, by Ken Cuccinelli, General Counsel to the FreedomWorks Foundation's Regulatory Action Center

"Reforming CFPB isn't enough. Eliminate it."

INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY

OP-ED, by Wayne Brough, FreedomWorks' Chief Economist and Vice President of Research

"Sea Change At The FCC"

in the final hours of the Obama administration, at nearly 11:00 pm on January 19.

This is the exact type of regulatory recklessness the Trump administration has pledged to combat.

Finally, the Foundation will be preparing comments related to enforcement of the Merchant Marine Act of 1920. This law, more commonly known as the Jones Act, limits domestic maritime shipping through strict protectionist measures.

The result has been grossly-inflated shipping prices and economic chokeholds on regions dependent on maritime trade. Shipping firms frequently apply for waivers to this outdated law. The Foundation will use these opportunities to encourage the administration to apply broader regulatory relief in domestic maritime trade.

In addition to these specific issues, the Foundation is laying the groundwork to lead a new regulatory reform coalition. The unique advantage of this group will be its inclusion of private industry and trade associations, in addition to experts from academia and non-profit policy organizations.

These are the stakeholders with the best localized knowledge and expertise on the economic impact of regulation. Their cooperation will bolster the ability of the Foundation to convey the importance of regulatory reform to FreedomWorks' activist base and drive activist engagement.

The Foundation will continue to regularly check the Federal Register for engagement opportunities on regulations, produce a bi-weekly newsletter that offers insight into the regulatory state under the Trump administration, and develop a "Drain the Swamp Index" of regulations that the administration is reviewing for repeal or has repealed. We are also planning a series of events for activist education as grassroots events.

Launching the "Lens of Liberty"

FreedomWorks Foundation recently partnered with the Vernon K. Kriebel Foundation to produce and promote three videos that educate Americans on the importance of looking at a proposed policy through the lens of liberty to consider its impact on the principles of limited government and freedom. In addition to these three videos there are nine more in production.

