



October 9, 2015

The Honorable Rob Portman  
U.S. Senate  
448 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Portman,

On behalf of the National Small Business Association (NSBA), I am pleased to support *S. 1607*, the *Independent Agency Regulatory Analysis Act of 2015*. This legislation will allow the president to require independent regulatory agencies—such as the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)—to comply with regulations applicable to federal agencies and will ensure consistency across those agencies that regulate small businesses.

NSBA is the nation's first small business advocacy association with more than 65,000 small-business members representing every state and industry across the country. NSBA, a staunchly nonpartisan organization, and our members consistently rank regulatory reform as one of their top ten priority issues for the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress.

The total annual cost of the federal regulatory burden on the American public has ballooned to nearly \$2 trillion and continues to grow each year. Unfortunately, small businesses disproportionately face higher annual regulatory costs of \$10,585 per employee per year, which is 36 percent above the regulatory costs facing large firms.

Currently, federal agencies are generally required to issue the least costly regulations necessary to accomplish their goal, but some independent agencies are exempted from this requirement—resulting in an unclear regulatory process for small businesses. A small business' ability to operate efficiently and free of unnecessary regulatory burdens is critical for it to compete and create jobs across the country. I am pleased that your legislation addresses these challenges by requiring independent agencies to perform analysis to evaluate costs and benefits of their rules and require them to adopt the least burdensome approach.

Specifically, NSBA is pleased to support *S. 1607*, because it would require independent agencies be regulated under the same requirements as executive agencies by analyzing and publishing cost-benefit analysis and private sector impact, about the regulations they intend to promulgate. Extending these requirements will also ensure that some of the most active regulatory agencies are accountable for the regulations which they promulgate and create a mechanism whereby the president may require justifications for the independent agencies' regulatory decisions.

We are hopeful that fostering an environment of increased regulatory transparency and consistency will lead to a healthy regulatory atmosphere that works for both the agencies and businesses, alike. Thank you for your leadership on this issue and I look forward to working with you to bring this legislation to the Senate floor for consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd McCracken", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Todd McCracken  
President & CEO

Cc: Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Chairman Ron Johnson  
and Ranking Member Thomas Carper