



October 9, 2015

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

Dear Senator Portman,

The National Small Business Association (NSBA) is pleased to support *S. 2006*, the *Regulatory Accountability Act of 2015*, legislation that will modernize and strengthen the *Administrative Procedure Act (APA)* by requiring regulating agencies to fully consider the economic impacts of proposed regulations, a disproportionate share of which fall on small businesses.

In 2014, there were more than seventy federal agencies, and every year these agencies issue tens of thousands of new regulations, which now occupy more than 175,000 pages of regulatory code. Unlike big corporations—which have legions of accountants, benefits coordinators, attorneys and personnel administrators at their disposal—small businesses often are at a loss to keep up with, implement, or afford these overwhelming regulatory and paperwork demands of the federal government.

S. 2006 would modernize the APA and revise requirements placed on federal agencies before they may take regulatory action. The legislation would increase transparency in the regulatory process, encourage foresight by the agencies and avoid unintended consequences on the regulated businesses. All of these are matters of the utmost importance to NSBA's members.

The legislation requires agencies to consider several factors before they begin issuing regulations and calls for the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs to update its guidelines for the assessment of the costs and benefits of regulations. We applaud these provisions and look forward to a more consistent regulatory process from across the many agencies impacting our members. As a whole, this legislation will enhance agencies' analysis of proposed rules and also provide greater opportunity for small business input.

Regulatory reform has long been one of the top priorities of NSBA, the nation's oldest nonpartisan small-business advocacy group. The *Regulatory Accountability Act of 2015*, which will provide effective, meaningful assistance to America's small businesses, is an excellent step in the right direction. Your work toward alleviating some of the overwhelming regulatory burden disproportionately borne by small businesses is a testament to your dedication to America's entrepreneurs.

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