



The Advocate of South Carolina Small Business
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September 10, 2024

The Honorable Roger Williams, Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Small Business
2336 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nydia Velazquez
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Small Business
2069 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: House Bills 7198, 8083, 9030, 9031, 9032, 9033, 9085

Dear Chairman Williams, Ranking Member Velazquez and members of the House Committee on Small Business,

On June 27, 2012, I testified at a hearing of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Small Business on the topic of the “Regulatory Flexibility Act Compliance: Is EPA Failing Business”.

I was testifying on behalf of both my organization, which I co-founded in 2000, and the American Sustainable Business Council, which at the time I served as Vice Chair.

On the panel was a representative of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce who I commended for one of his conclusions. He made the point in his testimony that the EPA’s compliance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act could be improved with more resources for the rulemaking process.

I concurred with this opinion saying that the “EPA’s compliance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act isn’t failing small businesses but it could do a better of ow working with small businesses if it had more resources.”

Here we are 12 years later, and that same recommendation is as valid today as it was in 2012.

However, today we have seven bills this Committee is addressing, all of which seek to make compliance with RFA much harder by, as David Levine says in his letter, “imposing unnecessary, duplicative and even counterproductive requirements on federal agencies in the regulatory process.”

Even if these bill would benefit our nation's small businesses, which we do not believe that they would do, there is no additional funding to the agencies provided to carry out the compliance.

Mr. Levine has already made the strong case that our small business economy is thriving and thus there is no evidence that the Regulatory Flexibility Act is undermining entrepreneurial growth to justify the passage of any of the bills being discussed today. Therefore, as I have long maintained, much of the regulatory reform offered in Congress, including these bills, are for bogging down the process for the benefit of bigger businesses that seek less regulatory oversight.

There are more important issues of concern to small businesses this Committee should have been focusing on such as the labor shortage, access to capital, energy costs, etc. If the Committee wanted to address regulations, then it should have had a hearing on H.R. 5999, the Small Business Regulatory Relief Act, which would have actually helped small businesses that do have trouble complying with existing regulations. Plus, it does provide for the additional funding needed for implementation.

We do not support any of the bills on the Committee's agenda today (House Bills 7198, 8083, 9030, 9031, 9032, 9033, 9085).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Frank Knapp Jr.", written in black ink.

Frank Knapp Jr.
President & CEO