



May 21, 2008

Senator Olympia Snowe
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Mark Pryor
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Snowe and Senator Pryor:

On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business, the nation's leading small business advocacy organization, I want to commend you for introducing the "Independent Office of Advocacy and Small Business Regulatory Reform Act of 2008." This legislation will strengthen the most effective office within the Small Business Administration and bolster small business's voice in the rulemaking process.

The Office of Advocacy fills the unique role of voicing small business concerns to the government directly and in an independent manner. It works to hold federal agencies accountable to their legislative duty to take small business concerns into consideration in rulemaking. Considering the volume of federal regulations written each year that impact small business, we cannot stress enough the importance of their role in advocating on behalf of small business.

This legislation only makes Advocacy stronger by granting it a separate line item in the federal budget. Currently their budget is merged within the SBA's overall budget and determined by the SBA Administrator who can influence Advocacy's views or diminish its effectiveness through its control of the purse strings. A separate line would bring transparency to SBA's budget, making clear to small business what resources are being devoted to Advocacy's mission.

In addition, your legislation strengthens Advocacy's ability to represent small business views before other agencies by codifying key elements of President Bush's Executive Order 13272. This Executive Order emphasizes the responsibility of federal agencies to comply with the Regulatory Flexibility Act and give full consideration to the views of the Office of Advocacy. Codifying this directive ensures that future

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Administrations will adhere to the Regulatory Flexibility Act and pay attention to regulatory impacts on small business.

Small business owners want the freedom to run and grow their business without undue interference from the federal government. The Office of Advocacy is one of the few voices in the federal government that speaks on their behalf and makes sure their views are considered in the regulatory process. This legislation strengthens this important office, and we commit to working with you to seek its enactment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Danner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dan Danner
Executive Vice President
Public Policy and Political

National Federation of Independent Business

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