



Statement of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce

FOR: STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD ON IMPROVING SMALL
BUSINESS INPUT ON FEDERAL REGULATIONS, FOCUSING ON
IDEAS FOR CONGRESS AND A NEW ADMINISTRATION

TO: SENATE HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL
AFFAIRS REGULATORY AFFAIRS AND FEDERAL
MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

BY: MAXINE TURNER
FOUNDER, CUISINE UNLIMITED
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
CHAIR, SMALL BUSINESS COUNCIL
U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

DATE: JANUARY 19, 2017

The Chamber's mission is to advance human progress through an economic,
political and social system based on individual freedom,
incentive, initiative, opportunity and responsibility.

Statement Prepared for the
U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs
Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management Subcommittee
Hearing: “Improving Small Business Input on Federal Regulations, Focusing on Ideas for
Congress and a New Administration”
Washington, D.C.
January 19, 2017

Maxine Tuner
Chair, Small Business Council
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Good morning. My name is Maxine Turner, and I am the Chair of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s Small Business Council. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce represents the interests of over 3 million businesses, the majority of which are small firms. Those small businesses are the economic engine of America and we pledge to work with you on policies that would allow the engine to run at full speed. In recognition of that pledge, thank you to Chairman Lankford and Ranking Member Heitkamp for holding this important hearing on improving small business input on federal regulations, with a focus on ideas for this Congress and a new administration, and for your continued leadership on regulatory reform issues.

I would like to share how federal regulations have affected my company, Cuisine Unlimited. Over the past 30 years, Cuisine Unlimited has expanded from a small catering business to a true, full-service event provider offering services to the Utah community, with over 110 full and part time employees. In February 2016, we were awarded a major catering contract for all food services at the new performing arts center in our hometown of Salt Lake City. This contract meant a major investment in equipment, smallwares, and hiring of more than 50

additional staff, among other investments. Red tape made what should have been a golden opportunity into an unbelievable headache.

We immediately applied for an SBA loan, but soon learned that our 37-year-old, well established company did not qualify, even though we have had numerous successfully managed SBA loans in the past. Three banks informed us that our rating, according to new bank regulations imposed by Dodd-Frank, disqualified us from loan consideration.

Trying to navigate the complexities of the Affordable Care Act and anticipation of the new overtime rules forced us to hire part time staff instead of full-time, salaried positions with benefits. It should not be so hard for us to take advantage of a new contract. Why does it seem as though government is wind in my face instead of at my back?

Unfortunately, my story is not unique. As Chair of the Chamber's Small Business Council, I hear the story from small business owners across the country who are struggling with the weight of over burdensome regulation on their businesses.

One way to address the problems associated with unnecessary, duplicative, or excessive federal red tape is to guarantee that small business stakeholders like me have a place at the table when regulatory policy decisions are made. That is the concept embodied in the Regulatory Accountability Act and the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act included in H.R. 5 that passed the U.S. House of Representatives last week.

Another way to address this problem would be for the Senate to approve the Regulatory Accountability Act, which was also included in H.R. 5. This legislation would update the 70-year old Administrative Procedure Act rulemaking process and improve how federal agencies promulgate rules with the most significant impact on jobs and economic growth.

As I stated, I am Chair of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Small Business Council. The council is pleased that our new director, Tom Sullivan, has worked throughout his entire career to influence regulatory policy on behalf of small business. As Chief Counsel for Advocacy at the U.S. Small Business Administration from 2002-2008, Tom worked tirelessly to ease the weight of federal regulation on Main Street small business. He joins me, and the entire Council, in our desire to enact regulatory reform that would result in lasting red tape relief for America's small business community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this statement and for your consideration.