

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

MAXINE TURNER, CHAIR
SMALL BUSINESS COUNCIL

TOM SULLIVAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SMALL BUSINESS COUNCIL

July 18, 2017

The Honorable James Risch
Chairman
Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Risch:

On behalf of the Small Business Council of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to applaud you for introducing the “Advocacy Empowerment Act” and the “Hearing Small Business Act.” Together, these bills would provide relief for America’s small business community.

The top legislative regulatory reform priority for the Chamber is enactment of S. 951, the “Regulatory Accountability Act,” which has enormous support from the business community and bipartisan support in Congress. Additionally, we believe S. 584, the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act, which you cosponsored, would be an important step toward bringing regulatory reform to the small business sector.

The company I founded, Cuisine Unlimited, was established more than 37 years ago as a small deli and catering operation. Today, we are a second-generation family owned business with 120 full and part-time employees offering full catering and events services in our local community, nationally and internationally. We have catered events throughout the country and have been involved with seven Olympic Games. We were the exclusive caterer at USA House for the United States Olympic Committee in Athens and Torino.

As chair of the Small Business Council, I have met with hundreds of small business owners to better understand the U.S. small business landscape. Over the past decade, there have been many obstacles to overcome, including the worst recession since the Great Depression and a multitude of federal mandates coming from Washington, DC that have challenged our very existence. We want to grow our companies and contribute to the success of our communities. We find, however, roadblocks to that opportunity. We want to work with you to change that course so that our businesses have the resources to expand, create new jobs, and have a positive impact on our economy.

There are 62 million people employed at small firms, representing about half of our nation’s private sector workforce. Since 1995, small businesses are responsible for creating about two-thirds of the net new jobs in our country. The power of small

business to spur growth, drive innovation, create jobs, and improve communities throughout the United States is undisputed. However, we have experienced a decline in start-ups over the past decade, and that trend threatens a full economic recovery.¹

Undoubtedly, the growth of federal regulation over the past several years deserves part of the blame for our anemic economic growth. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's recent study entitled, "The Regulatory Impact on Small Business: Complex. Cumbersome. Costly," pegs the impact of federal regulatory burden at \$1.9 trillion per year in direct costs, lost productivity, and higher prices."² The Foundation's research also shows that those costs hit small businesses the hardest, with an impact on firms with 50 employees or fewer that is 20 percent higher than the average for all firms.

The "Advocacy Empowerment Act" would prompt the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy, the federal government's small business regulatory watchdog, to better police regulatory agencies' consideration of small business impacts during the rulemaking process. The "Hearing Small Businesses Act" would require the Internal Revenue Service and the Department of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service to better consider small business concerns in their rulemakings.

We look forward to working with Congress on regulatory reform and other issues important to small businesses. Thank you for your leadership on small business issue.

Sincerely,



Maxine Turner, Founder
Cuisine Unlimited

¹ Ryan Decker, John Haltiwanger, Ron Jarmin and Javier Miranda, "The Secular Decline in Business Dynamism in the U.S.," Working Paper, 2014, at http://econweb.umd.edu/~haltiwan/DHJM_6_2_2014.pdf.

² *The Regulatory Impact on Small Business: Complex. Cumbersome. Costly*, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation (March 2017), available at: <https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/reports/small-business-regulation-study>.