



March 23, 2012

The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
506 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McCaskill:

The National Small Business Association (NSBA) is pleased to support the *Plain Writing Act for Regulations of 2012*, which would, if enacted, improve small businesses' understanding and participation in the federal rulemaking process and minimize the costs and regulatory burdens frequently associated therewith. Reaching over 150,000 small-business owners across the nation, NSBA is the country's oldest small-business advocacy organization and greatly appreciates your leadership on such an important issue for America's small-business community.

This legislation, by reforming the regulatory process to require the use of clear, concise and well-organized language in all new or substantially revised government regulations, would ease the Federal Government's demands and costs on small businesses and as such promote economic growth, competitiveness and job creation. As NSBA communicated to the House Government Reform Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs, "Small businesses in the United States face many challenges that hinder their overall success. One of these obstacles is trying to understand, interpret and comply with the overwhelming array of federal regulations. Time and time again, we hear from small businesses about their desire to have a more simplified approach to complying with federal regulations and their paperwork requirements. Yet, more often than not, small-business owners find themselves buried under mountains of paperwork when they could be helping their customers, hiring new employees and expanding their businesses."

The amount of time and money associated with arcane and convoluted government regulations continues to cripple our nation's small businesses, ultimately forcing many of these businesses to drastically reducing their workforce and any plans they might have had to expand. In 2008, Americans spent an estimated \$1.75 trillion and roughly 8 billion hours complying with federal regulations and paperwork requirements. It costs small-businesses (with less than 20 employees) over \$10,500 per employee to comply with these regulations, which is over \$2,800 (or approximately 36%) more than their medium-sized and larger counterparts. Also, not every small business has access to nor can they afford a lawyer, accountant, or administrator to help them understand and implement the demands placed on their businesses by new or revised federal regulations. This pro-business bill will promote certainty, facilitate compliance, and help alleviate the

disproportionate burden placed on small firms at a time when economic growth and job creation remain a top priority for our country.

Small businesses are America's economic engine and are the most dynamic and innovative sector of the U.S. economy. They comprise 99.7% of all domestic employer firms, employ approximately 50% of all private sector employees, and have created roughly 65% of America's new net jobs over the past 17 years.

NSBA is pleased to support the *Plain Writing Act for Regulations of 2012* and thanks you for your continued leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd O. McCracken". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Todd O. McCracken  
President