



The Honorable Blaine Luetkemeyer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2230 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jared Golden  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1222 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Luetkemeyer and Golden:

On behalf of the National Small Business Association (NSBA), the nation's first small-business advocacy organization, with more than 65,000 small-business members representing every state and every industry across the country, I commend your leadership for introducing the Providing Accountability Through Transparency Act and Guidance Clarity Act. Regulatory reform remains a top concern for small businesses—the complexity of navigating various laws and regulations costs businesses significant time and money.

According to NSBA data, on average small-business owners are spending at least \$12,000 every year on regulations, and nearly one-in-three spends more than 80 hours each year dealing with federal regulation. Some small-business owners report spending \$200,000 each year to stay compliant with regulations. Regulatory concerns represent a major hurdle to would-be small-business owners and have a stifling effect on innovation and small-business growth. Thus, streamlining and updating old or outdated rules will provide entrepreneurs with flexibility in today's fast-changing world.

The Providing Accountability Through Transparency Act would require that each government agency provide a 100-word plain language summary of each proposed rule. NSBA appreciates this legislation would ensure that everyone has access and a clear understanding of the regulations imposed on them, greatly lifting the regulatory burden currently imposed on small-business owners. The Guidance Clarity Act would require every federal agency to include text in guidance documents stating that guidance is not legally binding, making it easier for small businesses to understand which regulations apply to them.

As proven by our NSBA survey data, small businesses are being inundated with rules that affect the very existence of their business and in order to strengthen the barrier between small firms and damaging government regulations, there is an urgent need to greatly reduce regulatory complexity, streamline the web of federal, state and local regulations, and include plain language to guidance documents.

Your work toward alleviating some of the overwhelming and unnecessary regulatory burdens disproportionately borne by small businesses is a testament to your dedication to America's entrepreneurs. The Providing Accountability Through Transparency Act and Guidance Clarity Act, which will provide effective, meaningful assistance to America's small businesses, is an excellent step in the right direction. Thank you for your leadership on this issue and I look forward to working with you to bring these legislations to enactment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd McCracken", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Todd McCracken  
President and CEO