



OFFICE OF ADVOCACY FACTSHEET

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Advocacy Identifies 48 Small Manufacturing Regulations Ripe for Reform

On January 5, 2005, the Office of Advocacy (Advocacy) sent a letter to Dr. John Graham, Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), an office within the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Advocacy's letter was sent in response to Dr. Graham's request that Advocacy identify rules that, if reformed, would reduce regulatory burdens on small manufacturers. OMB's request was part of its *2004 Report to Congress on the Costs and Benefits of Federal Regulations and Unfunded Mandates on State, Local, and Tribal Entities*. In its report, OMB identified 189 manufacturing regulatory reform nominations. Advocacy listened to the recommendations of small businesses and identified 48 priority regulations that were ripe for reform and would significantly reduce the regulatory burden on small manufacturers. A copy of Advocacy's letter and its 48 reform nominations can be found at, www.sba.gov/advo/laws/comments. Advocacy has been working with OMB to reduce the Federal regulatory burden on small businesses. The chronology of Advocacy's involvement with respect to OMB's 2004 Report to Congress on the costs and benefits of Federal regulations follows:

- OMB released its draft Report to Congress for public comment on February 20, 2004 (*see* 69 Fed. Reg. 7987, February 20, 2004). Chapter II of the draft report sought public nominations of regulatory reforms relevant to the manufacturing sector, especially on small and medium sized businesses. The public was requested to suggest specific reforms to regulations, guidance documents or paperwork requirements that would improve manufacturing regulation by reducing unnecessary costs, increasing effectiveness, enhancing competitiveness, reducing uncertainty and increasing flexibility.
- On February 25, 2004, the Chief Counsel for Advocacy presented testimony to Congress on OMB's commitment to seek out, and act on, regulatory reform nominations made by small businesses. The testimony can be found at: www.sba.gov/advo/laws/test04_0225.html.
- On April 28, 2004, Advocacy held a roundtable with small business representatives to hear nominations for regulatory reform. Over 35 recommendations for reform were identified by the roundtable participants. On May 14, 2004, Advocacy filed a comment letter with OMB in response to its 2004 draft report to Congress. The comment letter outlined Advocacy's outreach to small business and provided OMB with the 35 recommendations for regulatory reform. The comment letter can be located at: www.sba.gov/advo/laws/comments.
- On November 17, 2004, the Chief Counsel for Advocacy testified before Congress on the status of regulatory reforms nominated by the public in previous OMB reports to Congress. The testimony can be found at: www.sba.gov/advo/laws/test04_1117.html.

- Federal agencies are expected to review the merits of OMB's 189 reform nominations and prepare a response to OMB by January 24, 2005. OMB will then work with the agencies to identify the Administration's regulatory-reform priorities, which will be announced in February 2005.

- Advocacy's January 5, 2005, letter to OMB will help agencies prioritize their regulatory reforms to particularly benefit small business.

For more information, visit Advocacy's web page at: www.sba.gov/advo or contact Linwood Rayford at 202-401-6880 or linwood.rayford@sba.gov.