



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 19, 2002

2002-67

**Public nominates 267 regulations for reform, including many to ease burdens  
on small businesses**

**OMB collects and distributes reform nominations to agencies**

**Washington, D.C.** – The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is distributing to federal agencies 267 regulations that were nominated by a wide range of public commenters as candidates for reform. The nominations are included in the 2002 Report to Congress on the Costs and Benefits of Federal Regulations, which can be viewed at [http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/inforeg/regpol-reports\\_congress.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/inforeg/regpol-reports_congress.html).

The Regulatory Right-to-Know Act requires OMB to publish “recommendations for reform.” To engage the public, President Bush encouraged citizens to e-mail OMB ideas for eliminating unnecessary regulations on small businesses at the Women’s Entrepreneurship Summit in March. OMB also invited comments on rules affecting small businesses.

“I want to make sure people understand that we're going to do everything we can to clean up the regulatory burdens on small businesses. If there are nettlesome regulations which are costly for you to operate your business that you don't think makes any sense, I urge you to get on the Internet and wire the OMB your problem, so we can analyze it,” said President Bush. (March 19, 2002)

“We have an ambitious agenda ahead to address a thoughtful set of comments from the public. This is a great opportunity for smarter regulation,” said John D. Graham, Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) at OMB.

OMB received input on 267 regulations and 49 guidance documents from approximately 1,700 commenters. More than half of the nominations would modify existing rules by increasing flexibility, including proposals to assist small businesses by encouraging competitive bids for federal contracts and reducing paperwork burdens. OMB has directed agencies to prepare to discuss the nominations by February 28, 2003.

According to the report, the estimated annual benefits of major Federal regulations cleared between April 1, 1995 and September 30, 2001 range from \$48 billion to \$102 billion, while the estimated annual costs range from \$50 to \$53 billion.

###