



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 9, 2005

2005-05

OMB Acts to Curb Regulatory Burden on Manufacturing Sector

Washington, D.C. – The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) announced today that Federal agencies will be taking practical steps to reduce the cost burden on manufacturing firms operating in the United States by acting on 76 public nominations to reform Federal regulations.

“Manufacturers incur a larger share of regulatory costs than other sectors of the economy, and these reforms can be undertaken while retaining the benefits of regulation to consumers, workers and the environment. By reducing the costs of operating businesses in the United States, these reforms help make businesses more productive while protecting American jobs,” said OIRA Administrator John D. Graham

In February 2004, OMB requested public nominations of rules and guidance documents that could be reformed to reduce the regulatory burden on the manufacturing sector. In December 2004, OMB released for agency review the 189 reform nominations that were submitted by 41 industry and non-profit groups. Of the 189 nominations, 76 were selected by OMB for priority consideration and action by the Bush Administration. The Federal agencies involved are the Departments of Treasury, Agriculture, Commerce, Labor, Health and Human Services, Transportation, and Homeland Security, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency and the Federal Communications Commission.

OMB's report today summarizes each of the 76 reform nominations and the time-specified steps Federal agencies will take to address them. Recommended actions range from gathering and reporting additional information to issuing modernized regulations. Typically, the reforms are implemented through rulemaking procedures that include an opportunity for public participation.

“Agencies and OMB agree that these 76 nominations merit priority consideration and action,” Graham said. “After careful review of each nomination, OMB has directed agencies to take the most appropriate action to ease the excessive burden for the manufacturing industry while maintaining health, safety, and environmental protections for the public.”

In a separate but related action, OMB is releasing its draft 2005 Report to Congress on the Costs and Benefits of Federal Regulation. This report presents a detailed accounting statement of the costs and benefits of major Federal rules enacted during the past ten years. It also provides the public an opportunity to comment on the validity of benefit and cost estimates prepared by Federal agencies. This draft report will be revised based on public comment, expert peer review and interagency review. The final 2005 Report to Congress on the Costs and Benefits of Federal Regulation will be issued toward the end of 2005.

For additional information, please contact OMB Communications at 202-395-7254.

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