

March 3, 2004

The Honorable Jim Doyle
Governor for the State of Wisconsin
115 East State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Transmittal Via Facsimile: (608) 267-8983

Dear Governor Doyle:

It was a pleasure speaking with you in November at your Economic Growth Council meeting in the beautiful American Family Insurance boardroom. I am writing to compliment you on your support for small business regulatory relief. Enacting Senate Bill 100 will enhance the tools available to your administration in addressing the unique needs of small businesses in your state.

I was appointed by President Bush to head the Office of Advocacy at the U.S. Small Business Administration. My office was created in 1976 to independently represent the views of small business before Congress, the White House, and other governmental entities. The Office of Advocacy's independence rests in our responsibility to pursue the interests of small business directly regardless of whether the specific positions I promote are supported by the Administration.

More than 85 percent of firms in Wisconsin are small businesses. This means that small businesses are vital to the economy of Wisconsin. A friendly regulatory environment is critical to small business survival and growth. The legislation sponsored by Representative Terri McCormick and Senator Bob Welch fosters a competitive environment for small businesses and ensures that agencies are able to achieve their public policy goals of greater environmental protection, travel safety, financial security, and injury-free places to work.

I visited with Mr. Bill Smith while I was in Madison. The small business owners who are members of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) in Wisconsin are lucky to have him advocating on their behalf. My office applauds the cooperative working relationship between you, NFIB, legislative leaders in the Assembly and in the Senate, and the other small business stakeholders in Wisconsin. SB 100 is the right choice for the growth of Wisconsin's economy and will help guarantee that small businesses have a voice in Wisconsin's regulatory process.

Sincerely,

/s/ _____
Thomas M. Sullivan
Chief Counsel for Advocacy