



THE DIRECTOR

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

August 17, 2010

The Honorable John A. Boehner
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Boehner:

Thank you for your letter dated August 16. We appreciate your input and share your commitment to fostering economic growth and job creation. We are open to any ideas that will help strengthen our economy in the wake of this recession.

However, from the financial meltdown to the disaster in the Gulf, we have seen the result of failing to establish clear rules of the road and of allowing special interests to write rules that work best for them: middle-class families suffer and the country faces the consequences.

We have taken a different approach, carefully crafting regulations in a pragmatic, commonsense way that protects the health, safety, and well-being of the American people and fosters economic growth. Our balanced approach has led to proposed and final regulations that make it easier to select a Medicare prescription drug plan, give consumers more information about hidden fees in credit cards, save money and reduce workplace injuries through standard warnings on hazardous chemicals, and protect airline passengers from being trapped on the tarmac in idle airplanes.

In our efforts to promote job creation and economic growth -- especially among small businesses -- we have directed agencies to develop burden reduction initiatives designed to improve administrative efficiency by reducing duplicative requirements. We have asked agencies to highlight rulemakings meant to simplify and streamline regulations, and we have systematically worked to improve regulations that have significant benefits to economic growth which helps entrepreneurs and businesses across the country.

We also have worked to avoid unnecessary rules and regulations, and we have issued only those required by law or those necessary to strengthen our economy and to protect the health, safety and well-being of the American people. In the Administration's first year in office, it has issued fewer economically significant rules (those having over \$100 million in impact), than the number issued in the last year of the previous administration. In fact, the net benefits of regulation from our first year are estimated at a positive \$3.1 billion, as opposed to at least negative \$300 million in the first year of each of the prior two administrations.

With respect to your question of pending regulations with a projected annual cost to our economy of over \$1 billion, approximately 13 of 95 regulations currently under review at the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs are projected to be economically significant with potential costs in excess of \$100 million. Final cost estimates will depend on the content of the final rule, following interagency review and public comment.

It is in the best interest of our country when both parties bring worthy ideas to the table in an effort to restore and grow our economy, and we remain open to your input. We look forward to working with you in an open and constructive manner going forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey D. Zients". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "Z".

Jeffrey D. Zients
Acting Director