



July 12, 2011

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Chairman  
Committee on Small Business  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nydia M. Velázquez  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Small Business  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Velázquez,

On behalf of the National Restaurant Association and the National Retail Federation, we are writing in support of H.R. 527, the *Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2011*. The National Restaurant Association is the leading business association for the restaurant and food service industry. The National Retail Federation is the world's largest retail trade association and the voice of retail worldwide.

The restaurant industry is the nation's second-largest private-sector employer comprised of 960,000 restaurant and foodservice outlets employing 12.8 million workers—nine percent of the U.S. workforce. Despite its size, small businesses dominate the industry; even larger chains are often collections of smaller franchised businesses. As to retail, the industry directly and indirectly accounts for 42 million jobs and contributes \$2.5 trillion annually to GDP. More than 95 percent of retailers are small businesses and Main Street merchants, focused on growth and innovation. Even the largest retailers work regularly with suppliers and vendors that are small businesses, driving job growth for all sectors of the economy.

This legislation would strengthen the protections for small businesses in the often asphyxiating federal regulatory process, while making it more transparent and fair. In particular, the provisions giving the Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy more oversight authority as well as the ability to set the proper Regulatory Flexibility Act protocol will be paramount in defending the rights of small businesses.

Furthermore, eliminating the ability of agencies to ignore the indirect impact of federal regulations on small businesses would lead to a more accurate cost assessment. In addition, in line with President Barack Obama's Executive Order 13563, this legislation would better allow for a cumulative impact analysis of all regulations to better target those existing rules that should be repealed or modified.

Thank you for your attention to small business's concerns. We look forward to working with you to help enact the *Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2011* into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Amador", written over a white background.

Angelo I. Amador, Esq.  
Vice President  
Labor and Workforce Policy

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David French", written over a white background.

David French  
Senior Vice President  
Government Relations

CC: Members of the House Small Business Committee