



June 3, 2013

The Honorable Tom Coburn
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Coburn:

The National Federation of Independent Business is pleased to support S.A. 1141, an amendment to the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013 (S. 954). This amendment would expand critical small business regulatory impact analyses and outreach requirements to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Farming remains an integral part of the American economy and is at its core one of the most basic entrepreneurial endeavors. The federal government needs to be sure to use care when regulating the farming industry to ensure its viability.

Our farming members continually tell us about the difficulty and expense of complying with ever-increasing federal regulation. In fact, in our most recent *Small Business Problems and Priorities*, unreasonable government regulations ranked third out of 75 issues important to small businesses in the agriculture industry.

S.A. 1141 would help address this problem by requiring the USDA to conduct important small business impact analyses and outreach to small farmers. Specifically, the amendment would require USDA to convene Small Business Advocacy Review panels for rules that the department determines would have a "significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities." These panels are critical tools that allow small businesses to provide feedback to the agency before rules are proposed, therefore allowing the opportunity for more compliance flexibility.

NFIB supports this commonsense amendment because it will help alleviate compliance burden on small farmers while at the same time ensuring USDA can meet its regulatory aims. We urge the Senate to approve the amendment to help America's agricultural community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Eckerly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Susan Eckerly
Senior Vice President
Public Policy

National Federation of Independent Business

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