

July 6, 2011

The Honorable Howard Coble
Chairman of the Subcommittee on Courts,
Commercial and Administrative Law
House Judiciary Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Cohen
Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on
Courts, Commercial and Administrative Law
House Judiciary Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Coble and Ranking Member Cohen,

On behalf of the members of the National Restaurant Association, the leading business association for the restaurant and food service industry, I am writing in support of H.R. 527, the *Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2011*.

Our 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.

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better allow for a cumulative impact analysis of all regulations to better target those existing rules that should be repealed or modified.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,



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

CC: Members of House Subcommittee on Courts, Commercial and Administrative Law
House Judiciary Committee Chairman Lamar Smith & Ranking Member John Conyers, Jr.