



Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity

Spencer J. Cox
Governor

Deidre M. Henderson
Lieutenant Governor

Ryan G. Starks
Executive Director

September 18, 2024

The Honorable Roger Williams
House Committee on Small Business
2361 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Williams,

I am writing to express the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity's (GOEO) strong support for the Enhanced Regulatory Flexibility Assessment Act, H.R. 9032. This legislation would make key improvements to the Regulatory Flexibility Act to protect small businesses from undue regulatory burdens.

Gov. Spencer Cox charges our office with cultivating economic prosperity for all Utahns, and we proudly champion this commitment. GOEO's Office of Regulatory Relief administers a general regulatory sandbox created by the Utah Legislature in 2021. The sandbox temporarily waives state law to allow businesses to experiment with products, production methods, or services. It enables entrepreneurs to determine whether customers value products that don't fit within the state's current regulatory framework.

The Enhanced Regulatory Flexibility Assessment Act would help address this imbalance by requiring federal agencies to conduct more rigorous and detailed analyses of how proposed regulations affect small entities. Mandating quantifiable assessments of cumulative economic impacts, descriptions of disproportionate burdens, and evaluations of effects on small businesses' access to credit will provide our members with a clearer picture of the real-world consequences of pending rules. This information is crucial for our small businesses to effectively plan, budget, and advocate for themselves. Additionally, the bill's provisions to enhance transparency, such as requiring agencies to publish full regulatory flexibility analyses online, will empower entrepreneurs to understand the regulatory landscape better and hold policymakers accountable. Small businesses deserve a seat at the table when major rules are being developed, and this legislation takes necessary steps to ensure their voices are heard.

GOEO fully supports the Enhanced Regulatory Flexibility Assessment Act introduced by Rep. Celeste Maloy. This bill represents a common-sense approach to reducing regulatory barriers and protecting the entrepreneurial spirit that is the backbone of our economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Starks". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ryan" being more prominent than the last name "Starks".

Ryan Starks
Executive Director
Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity