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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

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December 12, 2016

The Honorable Mike Pence
Vice President-Elect
Presidential Transition Office
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Vice President-Elect Pence:

Congratulations to President-Elect Trump and you on your election. Your shared commitment to regulatory reform is an important step in unwinding years of regulatory overreach that expanded the size, scope, and cost of government. On November 8, the American people voiced their disapproval of the type of government that ignores the input of small business owners, consumers, and job creators. I am hopeful that under the leadership of the 115th Congress and the new Administration, burdensome regulations imposed by the Obama Administration will be re-examined and undone.

I recently wrote to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs and several executive branch agencies asking that the Obama Administration cease implementation of its burdensome regulations. Many of these regulations—including the Department of Labor's overtime rule and fiduciary rule, the FDA's industry-killing regulation of e-cigarettes, and the EPA's redefinition of the "waters of the United States"—would add significant costs onto American businesses and families and could have severe unintended consequences.

As we set legislative priorities for the next Congress, I am encouraged by President-Elect Trump's goal for regulatory reform. I believe there is much we can do to reduce the nearly \$2 trillion regulatory compliance burden that Americans are forced to bear. Under the current regulatory regime, one Wisconsin paper manufacturer told me that the cost of complying with just four major Obama Administration regulations costs his company more than \$12,000 per year, per employee. President-Elect Trump's proposal to require agencies to eliminate two existing regulations for every new regulation added—an approach I've publicly supported in the past—will certainly come as a much-needed relief to over-regulated businesses and consumers alike. I look forward to working with the Trump Administration on this and a number of other regulatory proposals that have shown bipartisan support in my committee and in Congress.

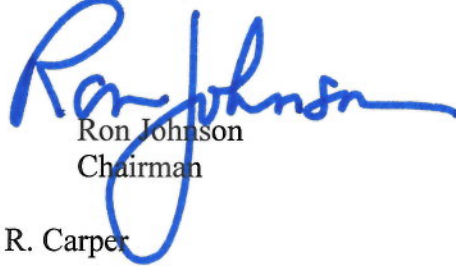
While members of Congress work toward improving our regulatory system, I respectfully urge the new Administration to immediately begin working to repeal the Obama Administration's most burdensome regulations, and further, immediately suspend those rules that have not yet been finalized or were imposed through non-legislative rulemaking procedures. With your leadership, I am hopeful that we can protect small businesses, innovators, and

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consumers from the federal government's regulatory overreach while modernizing and streamlining our regulatory system to the benefit of all Americans.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Ron Johnson
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Ranking Member