

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

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REGULATORY REFORM

DOLE UNVEILS COMPREHENSIVE REGULATORY REFORM ACT OF 1995: "THE REGULATORY STATE IS OUT OF CONTROL"

Last November, the American people sent us a message: rein in big government. Stop wasting taxpayers' monies. Stop passing the buck to state and local governments. Stop micromanaging our lives through burdensome and costly regulations.

We are responding to that message. Our agenda reduces government -- in size and scope -- and increases individual freedom. Our agenda will restore the true balance between government and individual reflected in the 10th amendment, which leaves all powers not given to the federal government to the states or to the people.

Our agenda is a package of reforms -- and make no mistake about it, we need them all. The first set of reforms focus on making Congress accountable and responsible -- cutting spending; stopping unfunded mandates; balancing the budget; and a line item veto. But, as important, we need to make the agencies that have come to regulate almost every aspect of our lives just as accountable and responsible -- we need regulatory reform.

Staggering Scope of Regulations

The true scope of regulations in America is staggering:
1) OMB estimates that the private sector spends more than 6.6 billion hours in one year complying with regulations;
2) The costs of regulation on our economy are conservatively estimated at \$500 billion.

And it is not merely a matter of too many regulations or whether they make sense. They are often inflexible and unfair. It is very difficult for one person or one business to take on the government -- even if they are right. Sometimes they must, just to survive, and the costs of enforcement are often a dead weight loss to society in terms of lost productivity and innovation.

I know of one small business in Paola, Kansas, that spent 5 years in a lawsuit with OSHA and finally settled for \$6,000. This company typically spends between \$7500 and \$10,000 annually for legal and management costs just dealing with OSHA. The regulatory state is out of control.

Major Objectives of Reform Act

Today, I'm proud to introduce the "Comprehensive Regulatory Reform Act of 1995." With me today are leaders in this fight: Senators Bond and Hutchison, chairs of our Regulatory Reform Task Force; Senator Lott, the Republican Whip; Senator Murkowski, Chairman of the Energy Committee; and Senator Nickles, Chairman of the Republican Policy Committee. All are original co-sponsors of this legislation. Congressman David McIntosh, a leader in this fight on the House side, is here today and will introduce counterpart legislation.

Our bill will accomplish six major objectives:

- 1) **Responsibility**. Major regulations -- those with \$50 million impact on the economy -- will go through an analysis that ensures that the benefits outweigh the costs;
- 2) **Sound Science**. Risk assessments will be based on realistic data and sound science and will be part of the agency decision-making process -- we have incorporated the bill introduced by Senator Murkowski, who will discuss this in a moment;

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3) **Accountability**. We will put a stop to the practice of expanding federal power and jurisdiction beyond what a statute provides. We will insist that the public be informed of the true costs and benefits of regulation, and that those affected by regulations be able to enforce these requirements in a court of law;

4) **Congressional Oversight**. We ensure Congress' overall responsibility by providing for a 45-day period in which Congress may review major regulations before they take effect -- we have incorporated Senator Nickles' bill that is also introduced separately;

5. **Remedying Past Mistakes**. There are undoubtedly many regulations that impose costs that wildly exceed the benefits. We allow for review of existing regulations in order to weed out past mistakes.

6. **Small Business Relief**. The costs of regulations often fall disproportionately on those least able to cope -- small businesses. We incorporate Senator Bond's bill to reform the Regulatory Flexibility Act that is already law, by allowing small businesses the ability to enforce its provisions in court.

Before I turn it over to my colleagues, let me make one final point: there are a lot of good ideas out there about regulatory reform. We want to hear them. But we will insist that fundamental reform be enacted this year. The American people deserve nothing less.

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