

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

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REGULATORY REFORM

CLINTON PROPOSAL MISSES POINT OF WIPING OUT BURDENSOME REGULATIONS; DOLE URGES COMMONSENSE, MEANINGFUL REFORM

Today President Clinton announced his proposal for reinventing environmental, food and drug regulations. I want to welcome President Clinton to the regulatory reform debate. Easing the burdens of compliance is a welcome first step, but misses the point that real reform means getting rid of unnecessary and overburdensome regulations.

President Clinton is trying to have it both ways. On the one hand, his limited proposals are consistent with legislation I have introduced on regulatory reform. On the other, he sent his administrator of EPA to Capitol Hill last week to denounce our common sense reform bill as "rolling back 20 years of environmental protection" and to reel off wild horror stories that are an obvious misreading of what we are trying to do.

On February 21st, President Clinton specifically instructed the federal regulators "to go over every single regulation and cut those regulations which are obsolete." President Clinton's proposal doesn't meet that test -- his proposal is no substitute for eliminating unnecessary regulations that stifle productivity, innovation and individual initiative. That's exactly the kind of reform the American people are looking for, and the kind of reform our comprehensive regulatory reform act will provide.

What I'm looking for is real common sense when regulations are needed. Common sense regulations that won't require fines for not checking the right box, regulations that don't define all farm ponds as wetlands and regulations that won't create significant burdens for small businesses and communities.

Americans are demanding that we get government off their backs by eliminating unnecessary regulations and applying some common sense before enacting regulations that are necessary. President Clinton's proposal today, while welcome, does not address this fundamental problem. I invite him to work with us to pass meaningful regulatory reform.

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