

Stop Regulators from Thumbing Their Noses at Small Business

Hear from the President

It's not that Jerol Kivett and Jack Buschur don't have better things to do than hang out in Washington, D.C.



Jerol could have been at his small business in Clinton, N.C., making sure the church pews he builds are exceeding his customers' expectations. Jack could have stayed in Minster, Ohio, managing his electrical contracting company. But Jerol felt he needed to warn Congress that the new IRS Form 1099 requirement in President Obama's health law is bad for small business, bad for those who need jobs and worse for the economy.

Jack came to Capitol Hill to wave some red flags of his own, all about big-government agencies that are standing squarely between small business and economic recovery.

Like all small-business owners, Jerol and Jack have precious little time to spare while they keep their businesses operating at maximum efficiency. But these dedicated NFIB members felt they should tell Congress that the heavy hand of government regulators is stifling their ability to grow their businesses.

"We started our business to do something we enjoy," Jerol told the House Small Business Committee last week. But the 1099 paperwork rule will force his company to waste lots of time completing unnecessary forms, tracking information, hassling with the IRS, and less time "growing so we have a reason to hire again."

The next day, Jack took his case for regulatory reform to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, pleading for help in reining in runaway rule-making by EPA, OSHA and the Labor Department.

The agencies, he testified, couldn't care less about the damage they cause to small businesses. Jack explained how regulations saddle firms like his with impossible-to-meet requirements and excessive paperwork. The end result is less available time and capital for job creation and expansion.

EPA's rigid lead-safety rules, for example, are so costly that homeowners shy away from renovations, hurting small contractors like Jack and worsening overall unemployment.

Jack is also injured by regulations such as Project Labor Agreements which discriminate against non-union companies by demanding prevailing wages and union labor. Of course, these unfair rules also mean gobs of expensive, time-consuming paperwork.

Of course, the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act should already be forcing government agencies to consider the impact of their regulations on small businesses before dropping the hammer. Unfortunately, many agencies thumb their noses at it.

NFIB needs entrepreneurs like Jerol and Jack to make the voice of small business heard on Capitol Hill. For those of you who are anxious to lend your voice more directly to the fight over government regulations, but perhaps you can't come to Washington, there are other ways. You can start by writing the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee at AmericanJobCreators.com or at NFIB.com. And if the day comes when you can come to Washington, we'd love to see you. And we'll let Capitol Hill know that you are coming; I promise they will listen.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Danner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dan Danner
President and CEO, NFIB