

Statement of Ed Schrock
Chairman
Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform and Oversight
Committee on Small Business
United States House of Representatives
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Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I want to start by saying how pleased I am to be co-chairing this hearing with Congressman Doug Ose. Doug, as a small businessman himself, has been a champion of these issues for a long time and it is a pleasure to be sitting alongside him. Our hearing today addresses the Office of Management and Budget's final task force report on the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act. You'll hear from many of our witnesses today their disappointment at a missed opportunity. We think that this task force had the potential to make some great strides in eliminating unnecessary paperwork burdens on small businesses. Instead, the task force decided that initiatives such as the Small Business Administration's Business Compliance One Stop were enough already. They just needed to make a few changes to satisfy the letter of the new law. No matter that we are 5 years or more away from its being a comprehensive tool.

Federal agency paperwork continues to increase. Congress and the Executive Branch can share in the blame for that, but it doesn't excuse us from making every effort possible to reduce the burden to small businesses. I hope that everyone recognizes what a great drain on the creative resources of our entrepreneurs this burden has become. All those hours and all that money spent on doing things that have nothing to do with creating jobs or making a better life for that citizen and his or her family. What a great waste of our national resources.

One recent example of unnecessary paperwork burden comes from the Environmental Protection Agency. EPA's TRI Lead rule now requires thousands of small businesses to spend time and money filling out paperwork only to tell the EPA that they have zero releases. EPA's compliance cost estimate for this rule was \$7,000 per business. In this reporting year over 3,000 businesses reported nothing. Small businesses paid \$21 million to comply with a rule that provided no information and no public health benefit. It is very disheartening to see our citizens subjected to this kind of regulatory buffoonery.

Small business continues to be a leader in restoring our country to better economic growth. In economic times like these, I hope that we'll make sure that small businesses face the minimum burden necessary to accomplish worthy governmental goals. I look forward to the testimony of our witnesses today.