



**SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY POLICY,
NATURAL RESOURCES AND
REGULATORY AFFAIRS**

WWW.HOUSE.GOV/REFORM/REG

Doug Ose (CA-03), Chairman

PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: Megan Taormino
202-226-6881

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 20, 2004

**OSE HEARING ON ADMINISTRATION'S
RECORD IN RELIEVING PAPERWORK
BURDEN ON SMALL BUSINESS**

WASHINGTON D.C. – House Government Reform Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs Chairman Doug Ose (R-Sacramento) today held a hearing to further review the Bush Administration's record on relieving paperwork and regulatory burden on small business. The joint hearing, held with the Small Business Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform and Oversight, heard testimony from key government agencies on the implementation of the 2002 Small Business Paperwork Relief Act (SBPRA).

“Small businesses are a critical party of our economy. They represent more than 99 percent of all employers, and provide two-thirds to three-quarters of the net new jobs in our country,” Ose said. “Hours and compliance dollars spent and penalties paid affect productivity, jobs and economic growth.”

Today's hearing was Ose's 10th hearing as a Government Reform Subcommittee Chairman focusing on the need to relieve paperwork, regulatory and enforcement burdens on small business.

The Subcommittee's heard testimony from the Department of the Treasury, which levies the most penalties on small businesses, and the General Services Administration (GSA), to discuss their SBPRA implementation. Due to Chairmen Ose and Schrock's oversight, both Treasury and GSA's witnesses at today's hearing discussed their agencies plans to more aggressively implement SBPRA.

For example, the General Services Administration announced that it is establishing a dedicated toll free number available to the small business community to ensure that small businesses do not incur additional expense to receive compliance assistance.

The Treasury witness explained Treasury's policy to waive or reduce penalties if asked by small businesses and if there is reasonable cause. Jesus Delgado-Jenkins, Acting Assistant Secretary for Management and Budget testified that the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) "advises that the reason more penalties were not waived is due to the fact that the taxpayer did not request a waiver, or the taxpayer could not demonstrate reasonable cause, which is the only authority TTB has to waive a failure to file or failure to pay penalty."

John Graham, Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), Office of Management and Budget (OMB) testified as to the status of government-wide implementation of each of SBPRA's mandates.

"I remain concerned that OMB has not made significant progress in its implementation of SBPRA since our hearing last January," Ose said. "Point #4 in the President's Economic Growth Plan is '[s]trengthening regulations and reporting requirements.' It's clear where the Bush Administration stands on providing relief to small businesses from the burden of regulation and paperwork."