

United States Senate

November 9, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On July 11, 2011, you issued an executive order addressed to independent regulatory agencies. Executive Order 13,579 and the accompanying memorandum asked independent agencies to comply voluntarily with the same cost-saving and burden-reducing principles that apply to executive agencies. The order also called on each independent agency to develop and publish a retrospective review plan within 120 days. Yesterday marked the deadline for release of those plans.

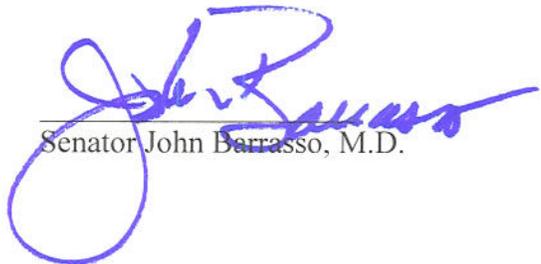
We respectfully request that you provide us with the details of the plans submitted by independent agencies not yet public and any economic analysis underlying those plans. Specifically, we ask you to provide us answers to the following questions:

1. What existing significant regulations were identified by independent agencies for retrospective review?
2. What existing regulations were determined to be outmoded, ineffective, excessively burdensome, or harmful to job creation?
3. What is the timetable for action by independent agencies to eliminate or streamline those regulations, and what are the anticipated monetary savings?
4. What independent agencies, if any, have committed to abide by your request that they “follow the key cost-saving, burden-reducing principles outlined in the January Executive Order [13,563]” in promulgating new regulations? (*See* Presidential Mem. To Independent Agencies, July 11, 2011).

Excessive regulation has made it harder and more expensive to create jobs. Regulations have been identified as a major concern to small businesses. With our nation suffering from persistently high unemployment, we must act swiftly and responsibly to remove unnecessary, duplicative and burdensome regulations on America’s job creators, particularly small businesses.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Senator John Barrasso, M.D.



Senator Rob Portman