

Since I began public service as a member of the House of Representatives in January of 1993, I have looked for opportunities to ease the regulatory burden on small businesses. They are the backbone of our economy in Arkansas.

As I said when we first introduced this bill in 1999, the federal government should be a help to small businesses, not a hindrance. We should always seek to ensure that federal policies don't place undue burdens on small business owners and tie their hands in red tape.

Small businesses are hit hardest by federal regulations. According to a recent study conducted for the Small Business Administration, "firms employing fewer than 20 employees face an annual regulatory burden of \$6,975 per employee, a burden nearly 60 percent above that facing a firm employing over 500 employees." This does not even take into account state and local government paperwork.

I have been told that federal paperwork burdens rank just behind taxes and the cost of health care as the top problems facing members of the National Federation of Independent Businesses.

This bill establishes a single point-of-contact for small businesses in each federal agency that governs small businesses. Second, it requires the OMB Director to annually publish in the Federal Register and on the Internet a list of compliance assistance resources available to small businesses. Third, it establishes a task force to determine how to streamline paperwork requirements for small businesses. It directs the task force to look at creating a single reporting format for all agencies that could be filed simultaneously and electronically. It is our hope that these steps will make it easier for businesses to access information and will allow policymakers to more easily identify and eliminate duplicative regulations.

The original version of this bill, S. 1378, from the 106th Congress, suspended civil fines on small businesses for first-time paperwork violations if they corrected their error. Our thought behind suspending fines for first-time violators was that a majority of small business owners who neglect to file a certain form are simply overwhelmed with paperwork and don't realize their error. We thought that small business owners should be given a chance to correct the problem before they were slapped with a fine. I am disappointed that this final version does not include the fine suspension, but as I often tell my constituents, we can't let the perfect be the enemy of the good. So I am delighted to see final passage of this bill.

APPRECIATION TO SENATOR DAYTON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I express my appreciation to you for being so patient. It has taken many hours that we didn't anticipate to get to this point

tonight. But for your patience, we would have been in real trouble. I appreciate very much your being courteous, as always. I appreciate that very much.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2002

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until tomorrow morning, Thursday, May 23, at 9:30 a.m.; that following the prayer and pledge the Journal of proceeding be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that there be a period for morning business until 10:30 a.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the first half of the time under the control of the Republican leader, or his designee, and the second half under the control of the Democrat leader, or his designee; and, that at 10:30 a.m. the Senate resume consideration of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there being no further business that I know of to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 9:19 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, May 23, 2002, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate May 22, 2002:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TONY P. HALL, OF OHIO, FOR THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE.

THE JUDICIARY

JAY S. BYBEE, OF NEVADA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT, VICE PROCTER R. HUG, JR., RETIRED.

TIMOTHY J. CORRIGAN, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA, VICE A NEW POSITION CREATED BY PUBLIC LAW 106-118, APPROVED NOVEMBER 29, 1999.

JAMES C. DEVER, III, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA, VICE W. EARL BRITT, RETIRED.

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. JAMES W. METZGER, 0000

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY CHAPLAIN CORPS AND FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531, 624 AND 3064:

To be major

SHAWN E. CONNORS, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY CHAPLAIN CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624:

To be colonel

JAMES E. AGNEW, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

MICHAEL J. HAMILTON, 0000
KURT R. LAVIN, 0000
HELEN P. SCHENCK, 0000
MICHAEL K. WEBB, 0000
MICHAEL K. WEBB, 0000
MICHAEL K. WEBB, 0000

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

JEFFREY A. KNUDSON, 0000

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

GEORGE B. PARISI, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 5582:

To be commander

PETER C BONDY, 0000
LAWRENCE E CRIMMINS, 0000
FRANK VERNET, 0000

To Be Lieutenant Commander

MOHAMAD ALSAWAF, 0000
DOUGLAS ANDERSON III, 0000
BRIAN D CLEMENT, 0000
WILLIAM J DARNEY III, 0000
JOHN A DEMERS, 0000
DOUGLAS H DOUGHTY JR., 0000
GARY S GLUCK, 0000
RICHARD A GRAHAM, 0000
JOSEPH W HARMON, 0000
DOUGLAS W KING, 0000
THOMAS R LATENDRESSE, 0000
DAVID A LEAL, 0000
MELINDA M LUKHART, 0000
ALAN F NORDHOLM, 0000
IVAN C PIERCE, 0000
MAE M POUGET, 0000
BRIAN P POWERS, 0000
THEODORE D SHAW, 0000
DARCY M SHIRLEY, 0000
CRAIG A STAPLETON, 0000
PHILIP L SUNDEL, 0000
GARY J WALKER, 0000

To be lieutenant

ROBERTO M ALVARADO, 0000
ROBERT A ARMSTRONG, 0000
STEVEN W ASHTON, 0000
VERA C AUGE, 0000
TIMOTHY M BAGLEY, 0000
STEPHEN D BALK, 0000
DANIEL J BALSINGER, 0000
BABAK A BARAKAT, 0000
BRADLEY M BARR, 0000
ROBERT S BARETT, 0000
LESIE S BELTZ, 0000
LAURA A BENNETT, 0000
ENRIQUE C BERNAL JR., 0000
BRANNON S BICKEL, 0000
ROBERT D BLONDIN, 0000
SCOTT M BOAMAN, 0000
DRUMMOND R BOORD, 0000
JOEL L BOUVE, 0000
DANIEL B BOZUNG, 0000
JONATHAN J BRADFORD, 0000
DARRIN BRANSON, 0000
JASON J BRIANAS, 0000
CHARLES E BRICE JR., 0000
WRAY W BRIDGER, 0000
KENDALL G BRIDGEWATER, 0000
ERIC H BRONNER, 0000
ROBERT E BROOKS JR., 0000
GARY L BROWN, 0000
KATHERINE J BROWN, 0000
TIMOTHY A BROWN, 0000
DONALD R BRUS, 0000
ROBERT T BRYANS, 0000
SCOTT L BUCHANAN, 0000
CALVIN E BUMPHUS, 0000
CYNTHIA J BUTLER, 0000
ANDREW S BYERS, 0000
PATRICIA G CADE, 0000
MICHAEL B CAIMONA, 0000
SADYRAT M CARINO, 0000
BRIAN R CARION, 0000
BRYAN K CARMICHAEL, 0000
KATHERINE R CARSON, 0000
BRY CARTER, 0000
ANN E CASEY, 0000
CHERYL C CASEY, 0000
JAY M CAVNAR, 0000
JOHN D CHOATE, 0000
ANNA M CHRISTENSEN, 0000
JEREMY L CLAUZE, 0000
CLINTON R CODY, 0000
SHAWN T COLLIER, 0000
JONATHAN R COLON, 0000