

Tearing Down Obstacles to Job Creation

Over the past two years, record-level deficit spending and borrowing has sent our nation's debt skyrocketing to an astounding \$14 trillion. While promises were made that billions of dollars in increased government spending would lead to economic recovery and new jobs, the rate of job creation in our country continues to be dismal.

According to the figures for January 2011, the rate of unemployment has been at or above nine percent for twenty-one consecutive months, representing the longest such streak since the Great Depression. Despite the enactment of the \$814 billion Democrat-"stimulus" law in 2009, 2.5 million jobs have been shed, and thirteen million Americans are continuing to struggle to find work. Furthermore, an additional 2.8 million of our fellow Americans who want to work have stopped looking because of the state of the economy and poor job outlook.

To put Americans back to work, we must stop the federal spending spree and remove the yoke of red tape around the neck of our nation's job creators. The fact is that federal regulations stifle innovation and investment in our economy by increasing the cost of doing business.

Federal regulations serve as a de facto tax on employers, forcing them to divert resources that could otherwise be used to expand their businesses to comply with government mandates. With the U.S. economy struggling, and families hard-pressed to make ends meet, the costs of regulations on our economy have never been more significant. According to a recent study, 43 major regulations were enacted in Fiscal Year 2010 alone, at a total economic cost of \$26.5 billion.

The costs of excessive regulations are particularly burdensome on our nation's small businesses. The Small Business Administration reports that the average small business with fewer than twenty employees faces a cost each year directly attributed to federal regulations of over \$10,000 per worker they employ. Just imagine the positive impact on job creation nationwide if small businesses had these funds available to them to expand their business, invest in new products and services, or hire new employees.

Recently, President Obama ordered all federal agencies to review current federal regulations and to eliminate those that are stifling job creation. While I am encouraged by the President's recent focus on job creation, over the past two years the Obama Administration has promulgated 121 major regulations, with many more still under consideration. It is unfortunate that the President is just now recognizing the crushing impact that excessive and misguided regulation has on jobs. Furthermore, his \$2.6 trillion government overhaul of our nation's health care system has alone added 6,123 pages of new federal regulations since it was enacted nine months ago, while 243 new rulemakings are expected from the Democrats' Dodd-Frank financial bill.

In February, House Republicans passed a resolution directing ten congressional committees to inventory and review federal agency rules and regulations under their jurisdiction that are harmful to economic growth and job creation. I look forward to reviewing the committees' findings so that we may quickly remove all unnecessary rules that are impeding private-sector job growth, discouraging innovation and investments, and harming the United States' global competitiveness.

Real, sustainable job growth comes from the private sector, not government spending and interference. It is time for Washington to get out of the way and tear down these obstacles to job creation.

Rep. Gary Miller represents California's 42nd Congressional District.