



## Giving a Voice to Small Business in Wisconsin

### Current Board Members:

Hal Bergan - WI Dept. of Workforce Development (DWD)

Pat Cooper - WI Dept. of Health & Family Services (DHFS)

Larry Martin - WI Dept. of Regulations & Licensing (DRL)

Randy Meffert - Meffert Oil Co.

Kelley Moll - WI Dept. of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP)

Representative Terry Moulton

Andrew Moyer - WI Dept. of Administration (DOA)

Aaron Olver - WI Dept. of Commerce (Comm)

Rick Petershack - Civility Press, Ltd.

Minoo Seifoddini - Custom Service Plastics Inc.

Al Shea - WI Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR)

Karen Vernal - Vernal Management Consultants

Wendy Wink - WI Dept. of Revenue (DOR)

Guy Wood - Tender Care Transport, Inc.

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## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

### THE SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY REVIEW BOARD

# QUESTIONS? CONCERNS?

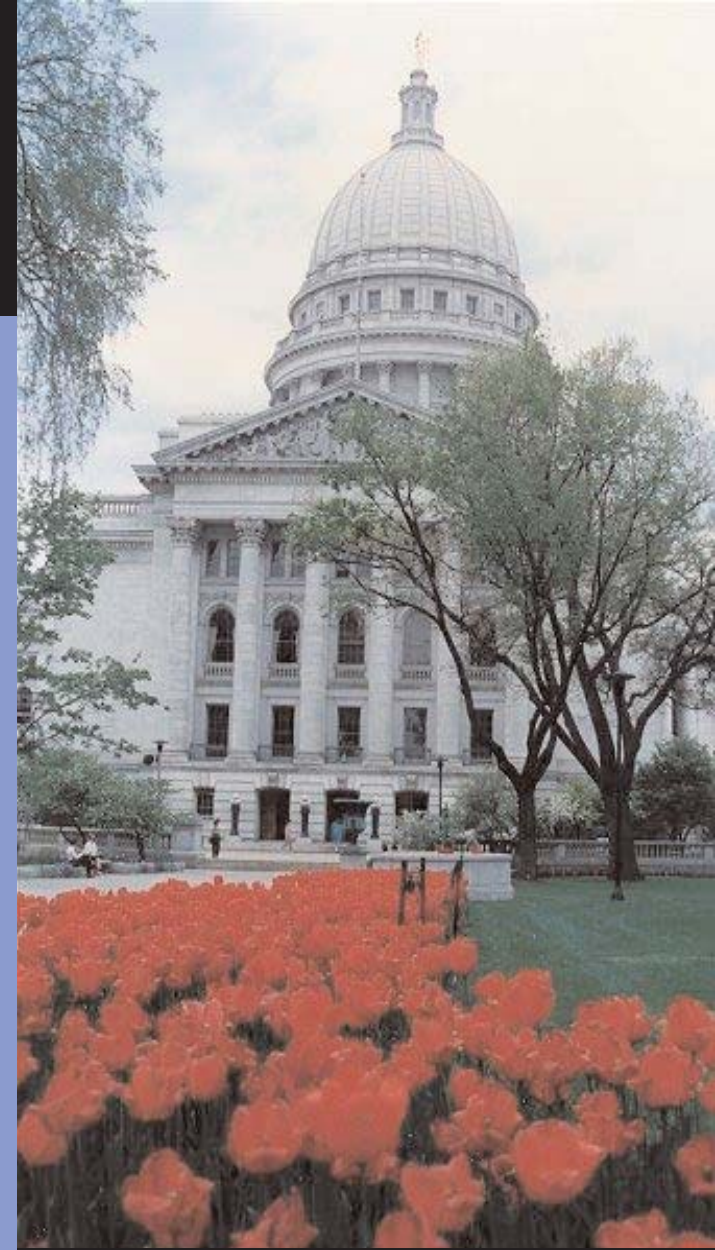
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COMPLAINTS REGARDING BURDENSOME ADMINISTRATIVE RULES CAN BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY ON THE SBRRB WEBSITE, WHERE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT ADMINISTRATIVE RULES, INCLUDING COPIES OF REPORTS ISSUED BY THE BOARD MAY BE FOUND.

[www.Commerce.wi.gov/BD/BD-SBRRB.html](http://www.Commerce.wi.gov/BD/BD-SBRRB.html)



# Small Business Regulatory Review Board





## Small Businesses - the Heart of Wisconsin's Economy

Small businesses are vital to the financial well-being of Wisconsin's economy. Since they bring dynamic ideas, innovative services, and new products to the marketplace, new business creation is key to a state's ability to increase its gross state product, state personal income, and total state employment.

In 2007, Wisconsin had an estimated total of 447,200 small businesses. Of the 130,000 firms with employees in 2006, an estimated 98 percent, or 127,400 had fewer than 500 employees. Self-employment (incorporated and unincorporated) totaled 339,100 in 2006.

The Regulatory Flexibility Act defines a "small business" as a business entity, including its affiliates, which is independently owned and operated, and which employs 25 or fewer full-time employees or which has gross annual sales of less than \$5 million.

(Sources: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Employment and Training Administration; U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Census Bureau; U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.)

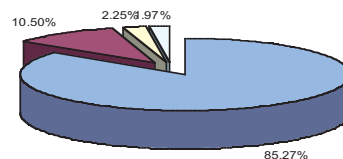
## The Regulatory Burden

Research shows that small businesses bear a disproportionate share of the regulatory burden. On the federal level, regulatory costs total \$1.1 trillion; for firms with fewer than 20 employees, the cost for compliance is \$7,647. Per employee, it costs about 45 percent more (\$2,400) for small firms to comply than their larger counterparts. The sector-specific findings below reveal the disproportionate cost burden on small firms.

Cost per Employee for Firms by Size:				
Type of Regulation	All Firms	<20 Employees	20-499 Employees	500+ Employees
All Federal Regulations	\$ 5,633	\$ 7,647	\$ 5,411	\$ 5,282
Economic	\$ 2,567	\$ 2,127	\$ 2,372	\$ 2,952
Workplace	\$ 922	\$ 920	\$ 1,051	\$ 841
Environmental	\$ 1,249	\$ 3,296	\$ 1,040	\$ 710
Tax Compliance	\$ 894	\$ 1,304	\$ 948	\$ 780

The compliance cost per employee for small manufacturers is at least double the compliance cost for medium-sized and large firms. Compliance with environmental regulations costs 364percent more in small firms than in large firms. The cost of tax compliance is 67percent higher in small firms than the cost in large firms. Regulatory and paperwork costs were also found to be more onerous on small firms than on larger firms.

### Total WI Employer Firms in 2005 = 118,475



Total WI Employer Firms with <20 Employees = 101,029
Total WI Employer Firms with 20-99 Employees = 12,440
Total WI Employer Firms with 100-499 Employees = 2,668
Total WI Employer Firms with 500+ Employees = 2,338

## Small Business Regulatory Review Board

Today it's easier than ever for Wisconsin small business owners to voice concerns regarding rule making and to receive regulatory assistance from state agencies. The 2003 Wisconsin Act 145 established the **Small Business Regulatory Review Board**, consisting of a mixture of representation from state agencies, small businesses, and the State Senate and Assembly.

Under the new law, state agencies must prepare and submit an analysis of the proposed rule's economic impact on small businesses to the board. The Board encourages agencies to consider all possible methods for reducing the impact of the rule upon small businesses. The Board may also review existing rules and report to the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules if a rule is found to be unnecessarily burdensome to small business.

## The Primary Purpose of the Board is to:

- Enforce state agency's compliance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act.
- Reduce the regulatory burdens on small businesses by advocating for small businesses in the legislative/regulatory process
- Encourage a partnership between small businesses and state agencies during administrative rule promulgation.