

Testimony of

Major L. Clark, III Deputy Chief Counsel Office of Advocacy U.S. Small Business Administration

United States Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship

Date: August 23, 2023 **Time:** 1:00 pm CST

Location: Iowa Economic Development Authority

1963 Bell Ave, Des Moines, Iowa

Topic: One Size Does Not Fit All: Understanding the

Importance of Rightsizing Regulations for Small

Businesses

Created by Congress in 1976, the Office of Advocacy of the U.S. Small Business Administration is an independent voice for small business within the federal government. Appointed by the President and confirmed by the U.S. Senate, the Chief Counsel for Advocacy directs the office. The Chief Counsel advances the views, concerns, and interests of small businesses before Congress, the White House, federal agencies, federal courts, and state policy makers. Economic research, policy analyses, and small business outreach help identify issues of concern. Regional advocates and an office in Washington, DC, support the Chief Counsel's efforts.

For more information on the Office of Advocacy, visit https://advocacy.sba.gov/, or call (202) 205-6533.

Major L. Clark, III Deputy Chief Counsel Office of Advocacy U.S. Small Business Administration

Chairman Cardin, Ranking Member Ernst, and Members of the Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship: I am honored to be here today on behalf of the Office of Advocacy (Advocacy) to present testimony about the impact of federal regulations on small businesses and Advocacy's oversight of agency compliance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA). Advocacy is an independent office that speaks on behalf of the small business community before federal agencies, Congress, and the White House. The views in my testimony do not necessarily reflect the views of the Administration or the Small Business Administration (SBA), and this statement has not been circulated to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance.

Congress recognized early the importance of small businesses to our nation's economy. The Office of Advocacy was created by Congress in 1976 to be an independent voice for small business within the federal government. Title II of Public Law 94-305 and the RFA confer responsibilities and authorities on Advocacy. Both laws are standing, non-expiring legislation and have been amended since passage.

The RFA is the statutory basis of small entity consideration in federal rulemaking. It requires federal agencies to take small entity impacts and alternatives into consideration during the rulemaking process. Advocacy oversees whether agencies comply with the RFA and its analytical requirements. Advocacy also informs agencies of small businesses' concerns to improve the impact of those regulations on small entities.

The RFA directs the Chief Counsel for Advocacy to monitor and report on federal agencies' compliance with the law. In addition, Executive Order 13272, "Proper Consideration of Small Entities in Agency Rulemaking," also imposes certain requirements on federal agency rulemaking and requires Advocacy to report on agency compliance with this executive order. To fulfil that mandate, in May 2023, Advocacy sent the FY 2022 report to this Committee, which covered October 1, 2021, to September 30, 2022.

Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Advocacy has ensured small businesses have remained an integral part of the rulemaking process by developing novel ways for their voices to be heard. While unable to meet small business stakeholders face-to-face, Advocacy held online roundtables and outreach events for small business stakeholders. Advocacy also complied with Executive Order 13272 by holding virtual RFA trainings for federal regulators. These actions kept small entity priorities at the forefront of federal rulemaking activities and allowed for more voices to become involved in the regulatory process.

¹ Exec. Order No. 13,272, 67 Fed. Reg. 53,461 (Aug. 13, 2002).

² U.S. SMALL BUS. ADMIN. OFFICE OF ADVOCACY, REPORT ON THE REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ACT, FY 2022 (May 2023), https://advocacy.sba.gov/2023/05/16/report-on-the-regulatory-flexibility-act-fy-2022-annual-report-of-the-chief-counsel-for-advocacy-on-implementation-of-the-regulatory-flexibility-act-and-executive-order-13272/.

While Advocacy has enforced the RFA for over 40 years, safeguards on the regulatory process continue to be important as the number of small businesses in the United States grows. Because of these safeguards and our mandate under the RFA, Advocacy continues to monitor new rules and regulations for impacts on small business.

I. Small Business Statistics in Iowa

When Advocacy was established in 1976, Congress recognized that there was a need for reliable and periodically updated statistics and research on small businesses. As a result, economic research is a core mission of the Office of Advocacy under Public Law 94-305. This mandate includes documenting the role of small businesses and entrepreneurship in the economy and examining various issues of relevance to small business owners. These elements of Advocacy's mission are the primary responsibility of the Office of Economic Research (OER). OER specializes in the following areas: the small business economy, small firm dynamics, small business finance, regulatory policy, international small business issues, barriers to entrepreneurship, and ownership of businesses by demographic groups such as veterans, women, and minorities.

Advocacy's research demonstrates that small businesses continue to be a critical part of not only the nation's economy, but also of local economies. One of Advocacy's most popular research products is the state profile series.³ These profiles provide user-friendly snapshots of national, state, and local small business statistics. This includes statistics on lowa and its local economies.

Iowa small businesses make an outsized contribution to the state. According to Advocacy's most recent profile for Iowa, there are 273,623 small businesses in the state, which accounts for 99.3 percent of all businesses. Additionally, small businesses accounted for 46.6 percent of Iowa employment in 2019, which exceeded the national share of this metric.⁴ The business sector with the most small businesses in 2019 was construction, with 35,223 small businesses, including 26,569 businesses with no employees (i.e., nonemployers).⁵ Small businesses in the construction industry employed the most workers with 56,693 employees and a payroll of over \$3.5 billion.⁶

In addition to small business statistics at the state level, Advocacy launched a new profile series last month: the Small Business Profiles for Major Metropolitan Areas. Des Moines was included as part of this profile series as a major metropolitan area. These profiles allow Advocacy to examine the role of small businesses in more local areas. According to the profile for Des Moines, there are 60,467 small

³ See U.S. Small Bus. Admin., Off. of Advocacy, *State Profiles*, https://advocacy.sba.gov/category/research/state-profiles/ (last visited Aug. 15, 2023).

⁴ U.S. SMALL BUS. ADMIN., OFF. OF ADVOCACY, 2022 SMALL BUSINESS PROFILE FOR IOWA 4 (Aug. 31, 2022), https://advocacy.sba.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Small-Business-Economic-Profile-IA.pdf.

⁵ *Id.* at 2.

⁶ *Id.* at 4.

⁷ U.S. Small Bus. Admin., Off. of Advocacy, *Small Business Profiles for Major Metropolitan Areas* (July 11, 2023), https://advocacy.sba.gov/2023/07/11/small-business-profiles-for-major-metropolitan-areas/.

businesses in the Des Moines metropolitan area, which makes up 98.2 percent of all businesses.⁸ Additionally, small businesses accounted for 40.6 percent of employment in Des Moines in 2019.⁹ The industry with the most small businesses in 2019 was Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services, with 8,234 small businesses, including 8,055 businesses with fewer than 20 employees.¹⁰ The Health Care and Social Assistance industry had the most workers, at 19,466 workers with a payroll of \$860.7 million.¹¹

II. The Regulatory Flexibility Act

Federal regulations can have a disproportionate impact on small businesses. To mitigate these effects, the RFA, enacted in September 1980, requires federal agencies to consider the ramifications of their regulatory proposals for small entities, analyze effective alternatives that minimize small entity impacts, and make their analyses available for public comment. The RFA applies to a wide range of small entities, including small businesses, not-for-profit organizations, and small governmental jurisdictions.

Advocacy continues to emphasize that the RFA "does not seek preferential treatment for small entities, nor does it require agencies to adopt regulations that impose the least burden on them, or mandate exemptions for them. Rather, it requires agencies to examine public policy issues using an analytical process that identifies barriers to small business competitiveness and seeks a level playing field for small entities, not an unfair advantage." ¹³

Under the RFA, when an agency proposes a regulation that would have a "significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities," the regulation must be accompanied by an impact analysis known as an initial regulatory flexibility analysis (IRFA) when the rule is published for public comment. ¹⁴ When the final rule is published, it must be accompanied by a final regulatory flexibility analysis (FRFA). ¹⁵ These analyses must describe, among other things:

- 1) The reasons why the regulatory action is being considered.
- 2) The small entities to which the proposed rule will apply and, where feasible, an estimate of their number.

⁸ U.S. SMALL BUS. ADMIN., OFF. OF ADVOCACY, *2023 Small Business Profile for Des Moines-West Des Moines*, in SMALL BUSINESS PROFILES FOR MAJOR METROPOLITAN AREAS OF THE MIDWEST 2023 25 (July 2023), https://advocacy.sba.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Midwest_2023_07_03.pdf.

⁹ *Id*.

¹⁰ Id. at 25, 26.

¹¹ *Id.* at 25, 28.

¹² 5 U.S.C. §§ 601-612. The Regulatory Flexibility Act was originally passed in 1980 (Pub. L. No. 96-354). The Act was amended by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (Pub. L. No. 104-121), the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Pub. L. No. 111-203), and the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 (Pub. L. No. 111-240).

¹³ U.S. SMALL BUS. ADMIN., OFFICE OF ADVOCACY, A GUIDE FOR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES: HOW TO COMPLY WITH THE REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ACT, 1 (Aug. 2017), https://cdn.advocacy.sba.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/21110349/How-to-comply-with-the-RFA.pdf.

¹⁴ 5 U.S.C. § 603.

¹⁵ *Id.* § 604.

- 3) The projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other compliance requirements.
- 4) Any significant alternatives to the rule that would accomplish the statutory objectives while minimizing the impact on small entities.

Agency consideration of significant alternatives is the key to the RFA because the development and adoption of alternatives provide regulatory relief to small entities while allowing agencies to achieve their regulatory goals. Analyzing alternatives allows agencies to evaluate proposals that achieve their regulatory goals efficiently and effectively without unduly burdening small entities, erecting barriers to competition, or stifling innovation.

Alternatively, if a federal agency determines that a proposed rule would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities, the head of that agency may "certify" the rule and bypass the IRFA and FRFA requirements. ¹⁶ This is commonly referred to as a "certification" and requires the agency to provide a factual basis for its determination that the rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

In addition, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) are required to convene a small business advocacy review panel (also referred to as a SBREFA panel) whenever they are developing a rule that is expected to have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. These agencies must notify Advocacy prior to the publication of an IRFA and provide information on the potential impacts of the proposed rule. The SBREFA panels consist of staff from the agency carrying out the proposed rule, the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs within OMB, and the Chief Counsel for Advocacy. The panel reviews materials related to the proposal and, importantly, the advice and recommendation of small entity representatives (SERs) on the rule's potential effects and possible mitigation strategies. The panel then issues a report on the comments of the SERs and on its own recommendations. The panel review is a report on the comments of the SERs and on its own recommendations.

Section 610 of the RFA also requires agencies to review their existing rules that have or will have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities within ten years of their promulgation. The purpose of the review is to determine whether such rules should be continued without change or should be amended or rescinded, consistent with the stated objectives of applicable statutes, to minimize any significant economic impact of the rules upon a substantial number of small entities.

¹⁶ *Id.* § 605(b).

¹⁷ A list of all SBREFA panels that have been convened can be found in our annual report to Congress and in Appendix C of this testimony. It can also be viewed on Advocacy's website at https://advocacy.sba.gov/resources/reference-library/sbrefa/.

¹⁸ 5 U.S.C. § 609(b)(3).

¹⁹ *Id.* § 609.

²⁰ *Id.* § 610.

III. Advocacy's Report on the RFA for FY 2022

As previously stated, the RFA requires Advocacy to monitor and report on how well federal agencies are complying with the law. In addition, Executive Order 13272 requires Advocacy to educate federal agency officials on compliance with the RFA, to provide resources to facilitate continued compliance, and to report to OMB on agency compliance with the Executive Order.²¹

In FY 2022:

- Advocacy submitted 37 comment letters to federal agencies to publicly register official comments on behalf of small businesses.
- Advocacy hosted 30 issue roundtables to discuss the regulatory concerns facing small businesses.
- Advocacy provided training to 257 officials at 10 agencies to familiarize themselves with the requirements of the RFA.
- Advocacy convened four SBREFA panels, three with the EPA and one with the CFPB.
- Advocacy saved small businesses \$73.5 million in estimated forgone regulatory cost savings because of the RFA and Advocacy's efforts to promote federal agency compliance.
- Advocacy achieved eight regulatory successes throughout FY 2022 that were not quantifiable.

A. Compliance with Executive Order 13272 and the Small Business JOBS Act of 2010

Executive Order 13272 requires Advocacy to educate federal agencies on compliance with the RFA, to provide resources to facilitate continued compliance, and to report to the Office of Management and Budget on agency compliance with the executive order. Portions of the executive order were codified in the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010.²²

Since Advocacy launched its RFA training program in 2003, the office has continuously offered RFA training sessions to every rule-writing agency in the federal government. Agency attorneys, economists, and policymakers attend these training sessions. The COVID-19 pandemic caused Advocacy to move its sessions completely online beginning in 2020. In FY 2022, Advocacy held 10 training sessions for 257 federal officials. The list of agencies trained during FY 2022 is shown in Appendix A of this testimony and in Chapter 2 of the annual report.

To provide clear directions on RFA compliance, Advocacy publishes a manual called "A Guide for Government Agencies: How to Comply with the Regulatory Flexibility Act." This manual can be found on Advocacy's website and is provided to agencies during training.²³

²¹ Exec. Order No. 13,272, 67 Fed. Reg. 53,461 (Aug. 13, 2002).

²² Small Business Jobs Act, Pub. L. No. 111-240, 124 Stat. 2504 (2010).

²³ The most recent edition of the compliance guide can be found on Advocacy's website at https://cdn.advocacy.sba.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/21110349/How-to-Comply-with-the-RFA.pdf.

Executive Order 13272 requires federal agencies to take certain steps to boost transparency and ensure small business concerns are represented in the rulemaking process, including the following:

- Written RFA Procedures: Agencies are required to show publicly how they take small business concerns and the RFA into account when creating regulations.
- *Notify Advocacy:* Agencies are required to engage Advocacy during the rulemaking process to ensure small business voices are being heard.
- Respond to Comments: When Advocacy submits written comments on a proposed rule, the agency must consider and provide a response to them in the final rule.

A summary of federal agencies' compliance with these three requirements is shown in Appendix B of this testimony and in Chapter 2 of the annual report.

B. Communication with Small Businesses and Federal Agencies

Advocacy uses numerous methods of communication to present the concerns of small entities to federal officials developing and promulgating new regulations. Advocacy holds meetings with officials, participates in OIRA-led review of upcoming rules, writes comment letters to agency directors, conducts outreach to small entities through roundtables and other methods, and (as previously stated) holds training sessions on RFA compliance to help facilitate meaningful participation by all interested parties.

One important function of this team is confidential interagency communications. Advocacy's goal is to participate in the regulatory development process as early as possible, both to counsel agencies on potential effects of their actions on small business and to provide RFA compliance expertise as needed. Advocacy believes it is essential that agency policymakers and regulatory development staff are confident that they can share pre-proposal information with Advocacy staff. Disclosing this information could have a variety of adverse consequences and, depending on what is disclosed to whom, could in some cases violate the law. By scrupulously abiding by this restriction, Advocacy has built trust with regulatory agencies, and they increasingly ask for Advocacy guidance early in the pre-proposal phase of the regulatory process.

As a result of these conversations, Advocacy is often able to help agencies adjust regulations before they are initially published in the Federal Register. However, because of the confidential nature of most interagency communications, it is difficult for Advocacy to document regulatory cost savings to small businesses that flow from this important work.

In addition to confidential interagency communications, SBREFA panels are another useful tool for Advocacy to express small business concerns in the regulatory process. As previously stated, three agencies (CFPB, OSHA, and EPA) are required to convene SBREFA panels whenever they are developing a rule that is expected to have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. Advocacy has found that these panels have helped the agencies improve their draft proposals before the notice-and-comment process. In some cases, agencies have withdrawn a rule after the potential impacts, costs, and benefits of a rule were better understood because of the panel

process. In other cases, revisions were made to a draft rule that mitigated potentially adverse impacts on small entities. Appendix C of this testimony lists every SBREFA panel through FY 2022. In FY 2022, four panels were convened.

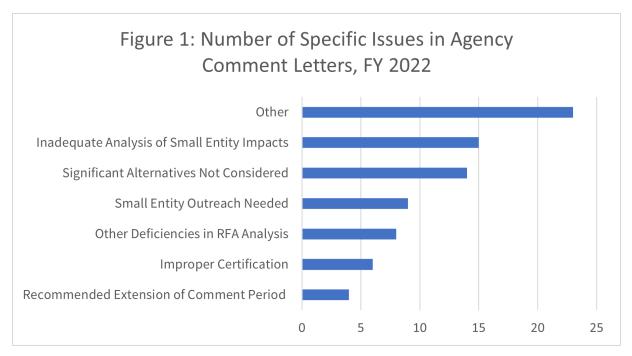
FY 2023 has been met with many SBREFA panels. As of the submission of this written testimony, ten panels have been convened in FY 2023: one with CFPB, one with OSHA, and eight with EPA.

One of Advocacy's most effective outreach strategies has been through roundtable events. In these roundtables, small businesses and their representatives discuss specific regulatory issues, in most cases with the federal agency present. Historically, Advocacy has mostly hosted these roundtables in Washington, D.C., with other roundtables held around the country as needed. During the pandemic, Advocacy staff moved roundtables online for safety and convenience.

As online communication has become more prevalent, Advocacy has included stakeholders that otherwise may have gone unnoticed or found it difficult to travel to Washington, D.C. Online roundtables have led to greater participation by stakeholders, including those from distant locations and underserved backgrounds. Advocacy plans on continuing to offer online roundtables, in large part thanks to these unforeseen benefits. In FY 2022, Advocacy held 30 regulatory roundtables with over 1,800 participants. A list of the roundtables can be found in Appendix D of this testimony, and descriptions of each roundtable can be found in Chapter 3 of the annual report.

C. Advocacy's Public Comments to Federal Agencies

In FY 2022, Advocacy submitted 37 comment letters to regulatory agencies. The most frequent concerns were inadequate analysis of small entity impacts (15 letters), significant alternatives not considered (14 letters), and the agencies needed to reach out to small entities (9 letters). Several letters (23 letters) referenced other issues not categorized. Figure 1 summarizes Advocacy's issues of



concern. Appendix E of this testimony lists all the comment letters submitted in FY 2022 in chronological order. Each letter is summarized in Chapter 4 of the annual report.

Despite Advocacy's operations moving to a full time telework status for most of 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and transitioning to a hybrid workplace since, Advocacy has maintained its work output and effectiveness. In fact, Advocacy's output has increased. For example, from FY 2017 through FY 2019, Advocacy submitted 63 comment letters to regulatory agencies and held 43 roundtables. In contrast, from FY 2020 through FY 2022, Advocacy submitted 74 comment letters to regulatory agencies and held 61 roundtables.

Advocacy continues to be productive in FY 2023. As of the submission of this written testimony, Advocacy has submitted over 40 comment letters to regulatory agencies since October 1, 2022. Advocacy has also held 23 roundtables, with more planned in the coming months.

In analyzing Advocacy's most recent reports, the most frequent concerns that Advocacy has identified in comment letters from FY 2020 to FY 2022 continue to be that agencies had an inadequate analysis of small entity impacts (29 letters), significant alternatives were not considered (28 letters), and small entity outreach was needed (15 letters). Additionally, Advocacy's comment letters also identify other issues not categorized (34 letters).

D. Small Business Regulatory Cost Savings and Success Stories

Because of Advocacy's efforts to promote federal agency compliance, in FY 2022, small businesses saved \$73.5 million in estimated forgone regulatory cost savings. Compliance cost savings for small businesses that resulted from these actions arose from the modification, withdrawal, or delay of final and proposed regulations. There were eight regulatory successes whose impacts are not quantifiable, which Advocacy categorizes as success stories.

Appendix F summarizes the cost savings from three final actions at three federal agencies in FY 2022, and descriptions of the cost savings can be found in Chapter 6 of the annual report. Appendix G of this testimony summarizes the success stories from eight agency actions in FY 2022, and descriptions of each success can be found in Chapter 6 of the annual report.

IV. Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. Advocacy looks forward to continuing to work with you and other Members of Congress to be the voice for small businesses in the federal government and work with agencies to reduce small businesses' regulatory burdens during the rulemaking process. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Appendix A

RFA Training at Federal Agencies in FY 2022

Date	Agency	Number Trained
10/26/21	Federal Communications Commission	6
03/02/22	National Labor Relations Board	37
03/03/22	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	5
04/19/22	Federal Communications Commission	41
04/26/22	Securities and Exchange Commission	50
05/05/22	Mine Safety and Health Administration	18
06/29/22	Employee Benefits Security Administration	13
07/21/22	Department of Education	15
09/13/22	Small Business Administration	25
09/22/22	Federal Aviation Administration	47
	Total	257

Appendix B

Federal Agency Compliance with Rule-Writing Requirements under Executive Order 13272 and the JOBS Act, FY 2022

Agency	Written Procedures on Website	URL of Agency's PEA Procedures		Responds to Comments
		Cabinet Agencies		
Department of Agriculture	√	https://www.usda.gov/directives/dr-1512- 001	√	V
Department of Commerce(a)	V	www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/laws-and- policies/guidance-conducting-economic- and-social-analyses-regulatory-actions	$\sqrt{}$	\checkmark
Department of Defense	V	https://www.acquisition.gov/node/28713/ printable/print	V	V
Department of Education	Х		√	n.a.
Department of Energy	√	www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/gcprod/ documents/eo13272.pdf	\checkmark	\checkmark
Department of Health and Human Services	√	FDA: https://www.fda.gov/industry/ small-business-assistance/letter-proper- consideration-small-entities-agency- rulemaking CMS: https://www.cms.gov/ Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/ CMSSmallBusAdminOmbuds	\checkmark	\checkmark
Department of Homeland Security	√	www.dhs.gov/publication/signed-regulatory- flexibility-act-executive-order-13272- memo-2004	V	n.a.
Department of Housing and Urban Development	√	www.hud.gov/program_offices/sdb/policy/ sbrefa	n.a.	n.a.
Department of the Interior	√	https://www.fws.gov/policy/library/ rgeo12372.pdf	√	х
Department of Justice	X		$\sqrt{}$	n.a.
Department of Labor	√	www.dol.gov/general/regs/guidelines	√	√
Department of State	Х		$\sqrt{}$	n.a.

Agency	Written Procedures on Website	URL of Agency's RFA Procedures	Notifies Advocacy	Responds to Comments
Department of Transportation	V	www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.dev/files/docs/1979%20Regulatory%20Policies%20and%20Procedures.doc	V	n.a.
Department of the Treasury (b)	V	Treasury: https://home.treasury.gov/about/general-information/orders-and-directives/td28-03 Internal Revenue Service: www.irs.gov/irm/part32/irm_32-001-005#idm140712272166000	V	√
Department of Veterans Affairs	V	www.va.gov/ORPM/Regulatory_Flexibility_ Act_EO_13272_Compliance.asp	V	n.a.
Environmental Protection Agency	V	www.epa.gov/sites/production/ files/2015-06/documents/guidance- regflexact.pdf	V	V
Small Business Administration	х		V	n.a.
		Noncabinet Agencies		
Commodity Futures Trading Commission	n.a.	n.a.	Х	n.a.
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (c)	n.a.	n.a.	V	n.a.
Consumer Product Safety Commission	V	www.cpsc.gov/Regulations-Laws Standards/Rulemaking#The Regulatory Flexibility Act	V	V
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission	V	www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/plan/regflexibilityact.	V	n.a.
Federal Acquisition Regulation Council	Х	https://www.acquisition.gov/node/28713/ printable/print	V	n.a.
Federal Communications Commission	√	www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/fcc- directive- 1158.2.pdf	V	V
Federal Reserve Board (c)	n.a.	n.a.		n.a.

Agency	Written Procedures on Website	URL of Agency's RFA Procedures	Notifies Advocacy	Responds to Comments
Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board	n.a.	n.a.	√	n.a.
General Services Administration	Х		V	n.a.
National Labor Relations Board (c)	n.a.	n.a.	$\sqrt{}$	n.a.
Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation	n.a.	n.a.	V	n.a.
Securities and Exchange Commission (c)	n.a.	n.a.	V	n.a.

Notes: $\sqrt{ }$ = Agency complied with the requirement. X = Agency did not comply with the requirement. n.a. = Not applicable because Advocacy did not submit a comment letter in response to an agency rule in FY 2022 or because the agency is not required to do so.

- a. NOAA drafts most regulations the Commerce Department releases.
- b. On April 11, 2018, Treasury and the Office of Management and Budget signed a Memorandum of Agreement stating that tax regulations would be reviewed under Executive Order 12866.
- c. Independent agencies are not subject to the E.O. requiring written procedures. However, some independent agencies do have written procedures available on their websites.

Appendix C SBREFA Panels Convened Through FY 2022

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

SBREFA Panel Rule	Date Convened	Date Completed	Notice of Proposed Rulemaking	Final Rule Published
Automated Valuation Model (AVM)	03/14/22	05/13/22		
Small Business Lending Data Collection	10/15/20	12/14/20	10/08/21	
Debt Collection	08/25/16	10/19/16	05/21/19. Supplemental rule published 03/03/20.	11/30/20
Arbitration Clauses	10/20/15	12/11/15	05/24/16	Rule published 07/19/17. Repealed via Congr. Review Act, 10/24/17.
Limit Certain Practices for Payday, Vehicle Title, and Similar Loans	04/27/15	06/25/15	07/22/16	11/17/17
Home Mortgage Disclosure Act	02/27/14	04/24/14	08/29/14	10/15/15
Loan Originator Compensation Requirements under Regulation Z	05/09/12	07/12/12	09/07/12	02/15/13
Mortgage Servicing under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA or Regulation X) and Truth in Lending Act (TILA or Regulation Z)	04/09/12	06/11/12	09/17/12	02/14/13
Integrated Mortgage Disclosures under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA or Regulation X) and Truth in Lending Act (TILA or Regulation Z)	02/21/12	04/23/12	08/23/12	12/31/13

Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration **Notice of** Date Final Rule **Proposed Date Completed SBREFA Panel Rule** Convened Rulemaking **Published** 10/04/21 12/02/21 **Emergency Response Tree Care Operations** 03/23/20 05/22/20 **Telecommunications Towers** 08/15/18 10/11/18 **Process Safety Management Standard** 06/02/16 08/01/16 Occupational Exposure to Infectious Diseases in Healthcare and Other 10/14/14 12/22/14 **Related Work Settings** Occupational Exposure to Diacetyl and Food Flavorings Containing Diacetyl 05/05/09 07/02/09 08/07/15 Occupational Exposure to Beryllium 09/17/07 01/15/08 Cranes and Derricks in Construction 10/09/08 08/09/10 08/18/06 10/17/06 Occupational Exposure to Hexavalent 10/04/04 02/28/06 01/30/04 04/20/04 Chromium Occupational Exposure to Crystalline 10/20/03 12/19/03 09/12/13 03/25/16 **Confined Spaces in Construction** 09/26/03 11/24/03 11/28/07 Electric Power Generation, 04/01/03 06/30/03 06/15/05 04/11/14 Transmission, and Distribution **Ergonomics Program Standard** 03/02/99 04/30/99 11/23/99 11/14/00 Safety and Health Program Rule 10/20/98 12/19/98

09/10/96

11/12/96

Tuberculosis

Withdrawn

12/31/03

10/17/97

Environmental Protection Agency
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SBREFA Panel Rule	Date Convened	Date Completed	Notice of Proposed Rulemaking	Final Rule Published
TSCA Section 8(a)(7) Rule: Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances	04/06/22	08/02/22		
Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR)	05/24/22	08/01/22		
Cyclic Aliphatic Bromide Cluster (HBCD) Risk Management Rulemaking Under the Toxic Substances Control Act	01/06/22	09/09/22		
Standards of Performance for New, Reconstituted, and Modified Sources: Oil and Natural Gas Sector Review	07/15/21	09/20/21	11/15/21	
1-Bromopropane; Rulemaking under TSCA §6(a)	04/27/21	12/16/21		
Methylene Chloride; Rulemaking under TSCA §6(a)	01/07/21	10/28/21		
National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Ethylene Oxide Commercial Sterilization and Fumigation Operations	11/25/20	04/26/21		
Financial Responsibility Requirements for Hard Rock Mining	08/24/16	12/01/16	12/01/16	Withdrawn 02/21/18
Regulation of Trichloroethylene for Vapor Degreasers under Section 6(a) of the Toxic Substances Control Act	06/01/16	09/26/16	01/19/17	
Regulation of N-Methylpyrrolidone and Methylene Chloride in Paint and Coating Removal under Section 6(a) of the Toxic Substances Control Act	06/01/16	09/26/16	01/19/17	03/27/19
Risk Management Program Modernization	11/04/15	02/19/16	03/14/16	01/13/17
Emission Standards for New and Modified Sources in the Oil and Natural Gas Sector	06/16/15	08/13/15	09/18/15	06/3/16
Federal Plan for Regulating Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Electric Generating Units	04/30/15	07/28/15	10/23/15	Withdrawn 04/03/17

SBREFA Panel Rule	Date Convened	Date Completed	Notice of Proposed Rulemaking	Final Rule Published
Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Medium- and Heavy-Duty Vehicles	10/22/14	01/15/15	07/13/15	10/25/2016
PCB (Polychlorinated Biphenyls) Use Authorizations Update Rule	02/07/14	04/07/14		
Review of New Source Performance Standards and Amendments to Emission Guidelines for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills	12/05/13	07/21/15	07/17/14 08/27/15	08/29/16
National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP): Brick and Structural Clay Products and Clay Products	06/12/13	01/16/14	12/18/14	10/26/15
Long Term Revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule	08/14/12	08/16/13	-	-
Petroleum Refinery Sector Risk and Technology Review and New Source Performance Standards	08/04/11	Rule proposed rule w/o completion of SBREFA panel report	06/30/14	12/01/15
Control of Air Pollution from Motor Vehicles: Tier 3 Motor Vehicle Emission and Fuel Standards	08/04/11	10/14/11	05/21/13	04/28/14
Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Electric Utility Steam Generating Units	06/09/11	Rule proposed rule w/o completion of SBREFA panel report	04/14/13	04/13/12 01/08/14 06/02/14
National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) Risk and Technology Review for the Mineral Wool and Wool Fiberglass Industries	06/02/11	10/26/11	11/12/11	07/29/15
Formaldehyde Emissions from Pressed Wood Products	02/03/11	04/04/11	06/10/13	12/16/16
Stormwater Regulations Revision to Address Discharges from Developed Sites	12/06/10	10/04/11	-	Withdrawn 06/06/17
National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Coal- and Oil-fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units	10/27/10	03/02/11	05/03/11	02/16/12
Revision of New Source Performance Standards for New Residential Wood Heaters	08/04/10	10/26/11	02/03/14	03/16/15

SBREFA Panel Rule	Date Convened	Date Completed	Notice of Proposed Rulemaking	Final Rule Published
Pesticides; Reconsideration of Exemptions for Insect Repellents	11/16/09	01/15/10		
National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Boilers: Major and Area Sources	01/22/09	03/23/09	06/04/10	03/21/11
Pesticides; Certification of Pesticide Applicators (Revisions)	09/04/08	11/03/08	08/24/15	01/04/17
Pesticides; Agricultural Worker Protection Standard Revisions	09/04/08	11/03/08	03/19/14	11/02/15
Renewable Fuel Standards 2	07/09/08	09/05/08	05/26/09	03/26/10
Total Coliform Monitoring	01/31/08	01/31/08	07/14/10	
Non-Road Spark-Ignition Engines/ Equipment	08/17/06	10/17/06	05/18/07	10/08/08
Mobile Source Air Toxics	09/07/05	11/08/05	03/29/06	02/26/07
Federal Action Plan for Regional Nitrogen Oxide/Sulfur Dioxide (2005 Clean Air Interstate Rule)	04/27/05	06/27/05	08/24/05	04/28/06
Section 126 Petition (2005 Clean Air Interstate Rule)	04/27/05	06/27/05	08/24/05	04/28/06
Cooling Water Intake Structures Phase III Facilities	02/27/04	04/27/04	11/24/04	06/16/06
Nonroad Diesel Engines – Tier IV	10/24/02	12/23/02	05/23/03	06/29/04
Lime Industry – Air Pollution	01/22/02	03/25/02	12/20/02	01/05/04
Aquatic Animal Production Industry	01/22/02	06/19/02	09/12/02	08/23/04
Construction and Development Effluent Limitations Guidelines	07/16/01	10/12/01	06/24/02	Withdrawn 04/26/04

SBREFA Panel Rule	Date Convened	Date Completed	Notice of Proposed Rulemaking	Final Rule Published
Nonroad Large Spark Ignition Engines, Recreation Land Engines, Recreation Marine Gas Tanks and Highway Motorcycles	05/03/01	07/17/01	10/05/01 08/14/02	11/08/02
Stage 2 Disinfectant Byproducts; Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment	04/25/00	06/23/00	08/18/03	01/04/06
Reinforced Plastics Composites	04/06/00	06/02/00	08/02/01	04/21/03
Concentrated Animal Feedlots	12/16/99	04/07/00	01/12/01	02/12/03
Metals Products and Machinery	12/09/99	03/03/00	01/03/01	05/13/03
Lead Renovation and Remodeling Rule	11/23/99	03/03/00	01/10/06	04/22/08
Diesel Fuel Sulfur Control Requirements	11/12/99	03/24/00	06/02/00	01/18/01
Recreational Marine Engines	06/07/99	08/25/99	10/05/01 08/14/02	11/08/02
Arsenic in Drinking Water	03/30/99	06/04/99	06/22/00	01/22/01
Light Duty Vehicles/Light Duty Trucks Emissions and Sulfur in Gas	08/27/98	10/26/98	05/13/99	02/10/00
Filter Backwash Recycling	08/21/98	10/19/98	04/10/00	06/08/01
Long Term 1 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment	08/21/98	10/19/98	04/10/00	01/14/02
Radon in Drinking Water	07/09/98	09/18/98	11/02/99	
Section 126 Petitions	06/23/98	08/21/98	09/30/98	05/25/99
Phase I (FIP) To Reduce the Regional Transport of Ozone in the Eastern United States	06/23/98	08/21/98	10/21/98	05/06/05
Ground Water	04/10/98	06/09/98	05/10/00	11/08/06
Underground Injection Control (UIC) Class V Wells	02/17/98	04/17/98	07/29/98	12/07/99

SBREFA Panel Rule	Date Convened	Date Completed	Notice of Proposed Rulemaking	Final Rule Published
Centralized Waste Treatment Effluent Guideline	11/06/97	01/23/98	09/10/03 01/13/99	12/22/00
Transportation Equipment Cleaning Effluent Guidelines	07/16/97	09/23/97	06/25/98	08/14/00
Stormwater Phase II	06/19/97	08/07/97	01/09/98	12/08/99
Industrial Laundries Effluent Guidelines	06/06/97	08/08/97	12/17/97	Withdrawn 08/18/99
Nonroad Diesel Engines	03/25/97	05/23/97	09/24/97	10/23/98

Appendix D Regulatory Roundtables Hosted by the Office of Advocacy, FY 2022

Agency	Purpose	Date
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau	Roundtable on Financial Issues	11/09/21
Consumer Product Safety Commission	Safety Standards for Clothing Storage Units Roundtable	02/16/22
Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	Birds Not Bred for Research Roundtable	04/19/22
Department of Agriculture, Forest Service	Alaska Roadless Rule Roundtable	01/18/22
Department of Commerce	Technology and Trade Council Digital Tools Roundtables	06/17/22
Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service	North Atlantic Right Whale Roundtable	09/15/22
Department of Energy	Energy Conservation for Appliances Roundtable	02/11/22
Department of the Interior	Working Group on Mining Regulations Roundtable	07/21/22
	Offshore Wind Development and Fisheries Roundtable	12/14/21
Department of the Interior, Bureau of	BOEM Morro Bay Environmental Assessment Roundtable	04/20/22
Ocean Energy Management	Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Renewable Energy Roundtable	08/04/22
Department of the Interior, Fish and	Incidental Take of Migratory Birds Roundtable	11/16/21
Wildlife Service	Endangered Species Experimental Populations Roundtable	07/20/22
Department of Labor	FLSA Minimum Wage and Overtime Roundtable	03/25/22
Department of Labor	Davis-Bacon Act Regulations Roundtable	04/05/22
	Waters of the United States Roundtables	01/06/22 01/10/22
	Draft TSCA Risks to Fenceline Communities Roundtable	02/18/22
	Petition to Revise the Non-Hazardous Secondary Material Standard Roundtable	03/11/22
Environmental Protection Agency	Clean Truck Plan and Heavy-Duty Vehicle NOx Emissions Roundtable	04/08/22
	Chrysotile Asbestos Under Section 6(a) of the Toxic Substances Control Act Roundtable	05/26/22
	EPA's Proposed Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements for Asbestos Roundtable	06/17/22
Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council	Project Labor Agreements Roundtable	09/29/22
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	Interconnection Procedures Roundtable	09/29/22

Agency	Purpose	Date
Occupational Safety and Health Administration	Regulatory Update from OSHA Assistant Secretary, Heat Stress, COVID-19 Roundtable	11/19/21
	COVID-19, Heat Stress, Surface Mobile Mining Equipment Safety Roundtable	01/28/22
	COVID-19 Inspections, Heat Stress, ABA OSH Law Meeting Roundtable	03/18/22
	OSHA Electronic Reporting, Heat Injury and Illness Reporting, COVID-19 in Healthcare Settings Roundtable	05/20/22
	Blood Lead Level for Medical Removal, OSHRC Update, Cal/ OSHA Roundtable	09/16/22
White House Office of Science and Technology Policy	Sustainable Chemistry Roundtable	05/06/22

Appendix E Regulatory Comment Letters Filed by the Office of Advocacy, FY 2022

Date Filed	Agency*	Topic	Citation to Rule
11/18/21	DOI	Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through Recreation Opportunities	86 Fed. Reg. 57848
11/23/21	FWS, NMFS	Regulations for Designating Critical Habitat	86 Fed. Reg. 59346; 86 Fed. Reg. 59353
12/15/21	EPA	Standards of Performance for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources and Emissions Guidelines for Existing Sources- Extension	86 Fed. Reg. 63110
12/17/21	EPA	Addition of Certain Chemicals; Community Right-to- Know Toxic Chemical Release Reporting	86 Fed. Reg. 57614
01/06/22	CFPB	Small Business Lending Data Collection	86 Fed. Reg. 56356
01/07/22	воем	Mitigating the Impacts of Offshore Wind Development on Fisheries	https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/BOEM-2021-0083-0001.pdf
01/20/22	FCC	Improving Competitive Broadband Access to Multiple Tenant Environment	86 Fed. Reg. 52120
01/24/22	FS	Roadless Area Conservation; National Forest System Lands in Alaska	86 Fed. Reg. 66498
01/31/22	DOL	Revising Wage Methodology for Agricultural Guest Workers	86 Fed. Reg. 68174
01/31/22	EPA	Standards of Performance for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources and Emissions Guidelines for Existing Sources	86 Fed. Reg. 63110
02/04/22	FinCEN	Beneficial Ownership Information Reporting Requirements	86 Fed. Reg. 69920
02/07/22	EPA, CORPS	Revised Definition of "Waters of the United States"	86 Fed. Reg. 69372
03/03/22	NMFS	Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan	86 Fed. Reg. 51970
03/07/22	CMS	Contract Year 2023 Policy and Technical Changes to the Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Programs	87 Fed Reg. 1842
03/11/22	DOE	Inputs to Inform Social Science Research Related to Offshore Wind	https://www.energy.gov/eere/ wind/articles/doe-requests- inputs-inform-social-science- research-related-offshore-wind
03/23/22	CPSC	Consumer Safety Standard for Operating Cords on Custom Window Coverings	87 Fed. Reg. 1014
03/29/22	EPA	Petition to Revise the Non-Hazardous Secondary Material Standard	87 Fed. Reg. 4536
04/14/22	CORPS	Approved Jurisdictional Determinations Under the Navigable Waters Protection Rule	88 Fed. Reg. 3004

Date Filed	Agency*	Торіс	Citation to Rule
04/18/22	CPSC	Safety Standard for Clothing Storage Units	87 Fed. Reg. 6246
05/06/22	SEC	Cybersecurity Risk Management and Incident Disclosure	87 Fed. Reg. 16590
05/13/22	DOE	Request to Reopen Comments on Energy Conservation Program for Appliance Standards	86 Fed. Reg. 18901
05/16/22	BOEM	Environmental Assessment for the Morro Bay Offshore Wind Energy Area	Docket No. BOEM-2021-0044
05/17/22	DOL	Updating Davis-Bacon Act for Federal Construction Contracts	87 Fed. Reg. 15698
05/23/22	IRS	Required Minimum Distributions	87 Fed. Reg. 10504
05/24/22	APHIS	Standards for Birds Not Bred for Use in Research Under the Animal Welfare Act	87 Fed. Reg. 9880
05/25/23	CEQ	Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool	87 Fed. Reg. 10176
07/05/22	EPA	TSCA Asbestos Reporting Rule	87 Fed. Reg. 27060
07/25/22	EPA	Clean Water Act Hazardous Substance Worst Case Discharge Planning Rule	87 Fed. Reg. 17890
08/05/22	EPA	Water Quality Certification Improvement Rule	87 Fed. Reg. 35318
08/05/22	FTC	Extension of Implementation Period for the Standards for Safeguarding Customer Information	86 Fed. Reg. 70272
08/08/22	FWS	Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Experimental Populations	87 Fed. Reg. 34625
08/22/22	ВОЕМ	Mitigating the Impacts of Offshore Wind Development on Fisheries	https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/DRAFT%20 Fisheries%20Mitigation%20Guidance%2006232022_0.pdf
08/22/22	FTC	Motor Vehicle Trade Regulation Extension	87 Fed. Reg. 42012
08/29/22	FRA	Comment Period Extension on Proposed Train Crew Size Safety Requirements Rule	87 Fed. Reg. 45564
09/08/22	FTC	Motor Vehicle Trade Regulation	87 Fed. Reg. 42012
09/12/22	ED	Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance Proposed Rule	87 Fed. Reg. 41390

*Abbreviations:		ED	Department of Education
APHIS	Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service	EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
BOEM	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	FCC	Federal Communications Commission
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality	FinCEN	Financial Crimes Enforcement Network
CFPB	Consumer Financial Protection Bureau	FRA	Federal Railroad Administration
CMS	Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services	FS	Forest Service
CORPS	Army Corps of Engineers	FTC	Federal Trade Commission
CPSC	Consumer Product Safety Commission	FWS	Fish and Wildlife Service
DOE	Department of Energy	IRS	Internal Revenue Service
DOI	Department of the Interior	NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
DOL	Department of Labor	SEC	Securities and Exchange Commission

Appendix F Summary of Small Business Regulatory Cost Savings, FY 2022

Agency	Rule	Initial cost savings (\$million)	Recurring cost savings (\$million)
Department of Defense	Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification ¹	62.7	62.7
Environmental Protection Agency	Phasedown of Hydrofluorocarbons: Establishing the Allowance Allocation and Trading Program Under the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act ²	7.9	7.9
	Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 5 (UCMR 5) ³	2.9	2.9
Total Foregone Regulatory Cost Savings, FY 2022		73.5	73.5

Note: Advocacy generally bases its cost savings estimates on agency estimates. Cost savings estimates are derived independently for each rule from the agency's analysis, and accounting methods and analytical assumptions for calculating costs may vary by agency. Cost savings for a given rule are captured in the fiscal year in which the agency finalizes changes in the rule because of Advocacy's intervention. These are best estimates to illustrate reductions in regulatory costs to small businesses. Initial cost savings consist of capital or recurring costs foregone that may have been incurred in the rule's first year of implementation by small businesses. Recurring cost savings are listed where applicable as annual or annualized values as presented by the agency. The actions listed in this table include deregulatory actions such as delays and rule withdrawals.

Sources:

- 1. 87 Fed. Reg. 16590 (March 23, 2022).
- 2. 86 Fed. Reg. 27150 (May 19, 2021).
- 3. 86 Fed. Reg. 13846 (March 11, 2021).

Appendix G Summary of Small Business Regulatory Success Stories, FY 2022

Agency	Rule	
Department of Commerce	Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction¹	
Department of the Interior	Equity Action Plan ²	
Department of the Treasury, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network	Beneficial Ownership ³	
Environmental Protection Agency	EPA's Proposed TSCA Section 8(a)(7) Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances ⁴	
Federal Communications Commission	Supply Chain Security—Equipment Authorization Rule⁵	
	Small Provider Exception for STIR/SHAKEN ⁶	
	Broadband Competition in Multi-tenant Environments ⁷	
Internal Revenue Service	Required Minimum Distributions ⁸	
Courses		

Sources:

- 1. 86 Fed. Reg. 51970 (September 17, 2021).
- 2. 86 Fed. Reg. 57848 (October 19, 2021).
- 3. 87 Fed. Reg. 59498 (September 30, 2022).
- 4. 86 Fed. Reg. 33926 (June 28, 2021).
- 5. 86 Fed. Reg. 46644 (September 19, 2021).
- 6. 87 Fed Reg. 3684 (January 25, 2022).
- 7. 87 Fed Reg. 17181 (March 28, 2022).
- 8. 87 Fed Reg. 10504 (February 24, 2022).