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Letters from Duane Pearsall to President Gerald Ford

Duane Pearsall

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June 10, 1976

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

In your address to the May 13 luncheon, "Salute to Small Business", you made several references to the need for regulatory reform. Following that luncheon, you congratulated me for having been named the Small Business Person of the Year for 1976.

Upon returning to our plant in Lakewood, Colorado, I was presented a citation, together with a penalty fine of $450.00, by the Colorado counterpart for OSHA, COSH, File No. CV 0101 6D6.

My purpose in calling this to your attention is that our example suggests an urgent need for your regulatory reforms.

I would like you or your representative to visit either of our assembly plants in Lakewood, Colorado. They will find an environment superior to that found in a clean household kitchen. Because of the delicate nature of our product, we do not even allow smoking in the assembly areas. Our floors are tiled and waxed, our assemblers sit on posture designed chairs at desk level in an air-conditioned, well lighted, clean area.

We were cited for thirteen violations. I submit, Mr. President, that OSHA regulations are so comprehensive that no household environment could escape a violation by a conscientious inspector - not even the White House!

We do not contest the need for OSHA, but we are appalled by the procedures of enforcement.

The kiss-off is that fifteen days following the citation, which we did not protest, we received a threat of legal action if we did not pay the fine within another fifteen days.

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Having received the highest award as a small businessman, I feel a personal obligation to call your attention to such gross over-enforcement by OSHA. Certainly, this could not have been the original intent of our Congress.

Respectfully yours,

Duane D. Pearsall
President

cc: Dr. Morton Corn, U.S. Dept. of Labor - Washington, D.C.
    Senator Floyd Haskell
    Senator Gary Hart
    Congressman Tim Wirth
    Governor Richard D. Lamm - State of Colorado
    William A. John - Dept. of Labor & Employment - Colorado

bcc: Tom Bellinghausen
    Al Mayer
    Art Mooney
    Jim Shanahan
    Terry Mann
    Jack Wilson
    Dick Hillbrand
    Ann M. Brooks
Dear Mr. President:

It was a tremendous thrill to meet you a few days ago, following your luncheon address to the Small Business Week audience. Later that day, Mr. Kobelinski presented me with the National Award as Small Business Person of the Year. Thanks to you and the SBA, it was a day I will never forget.

As a small business man concerned for our free enterprise system, your address was exciting. As I appear for talks throughout the country on behalf of Small Business, I intend to reference your programs of support to Small Business. My hope is that they will excite other small business men as much as they did me.

Our own business success has been due directly to assistance from a Small Business Investment Company (SBIC), the Central Investment Corporation of Denver. Mr. Blaine D'Arcey, President of that firm, has told me you were a firm supporter of that program during your service in the House of Representatives. He has also told me that Senate Bill 2498 has just been passed by Congress rather resoundingly. This Bill will enable Small Business Investment Companies to become even more effective in channeling equity capital, long-term credit and management assistance to other new businesses. As one who has benefited greatly from the SBIC program, and because the Bill seems to be directly in line with your small business support programs, I hope very much that you will sign that Bill into law.

As one who has had the opportunity to succeed, I pledge to you that I shall devote my time and talents towards making those same opportunities available to others.

Thank you for your dedication and support of small business.

Respectfully,

Duane D. Pearsall
President

May 28, 1976

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

President

bé

bcc: Mitchell Kobelinski

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