8-14-1979

Correspondence to Duane Pearsall regarding the FTC

Patricia Schroeder
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Recommended Citation
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August 14, 1979

Duane D. Pearsall
Small Business Development Corp.
6605 S. Jay Dr.
Littleton, Colorado 80123

Dear Mr. Pearsall:

Thanks for your letter and the copy of the letter you sent to the FTC.

I doubt Congress is going to stand still for FTC rule-making. It will most likely try out its new veto power if FTC looks like it is going ahead with its plans.

With kind regards.

Sincerely,

Patricia Schroeder
Congresswoman

PS/kc
United States Senate

August 13, 1979

Duane D. Pearsall
Small Business Develop.
6605 S. Jay Drive
Littleton, Co. 80123

Dear Mr. Pearsall:

Thank you for taking the time to write me to express your support for amending the Federal Trade Commission authorization bill to include a legislative veto provision. I appreciate hearing from you.

I strongly support making the Federal Trade Commission and all Federal regulatory agencies more responsive and more accountable to Congress. Use of the legislative veto, however, promises to make the bureaucracy less accountable rather than more, and would necessarily require establishment of a Congressional bureaucracy.

Use of the legislative veto would actually create an additional layer of bureaucracy. Although delay is one of the biggest problems facing regulatory agencies, the veto is certain to create more unnecessary delay because agency regulations would have to be held in abeyance while being considered by Congress. And, because Congress lacks both the experience and the expertise necessary to decide complex regulatory issues, much more staff and an extraordinary amount of Congress' time would be necessary to review agency proceedings.

Congress already has ways to review and control the policies of the Federal Trade Commission or any other Federal regulatory agency. If Congress is to solve the regulatory problems facing large and small businesses in this nation, the only answer is to tackle these problems head-on.

Congress must commit itself to amending, rewriting, or revoking legislation which is unworkable, rather than engaging in a time-consuming review of thousands of individual regulations. If an agency is not doing its job,
or is abusing its authority, Congress can and should use its power over appropriations to insist on a higher standard of performance. If agency activities turn out to be either unnecessary or unacceptable to the public, the agency can be abolished. This is the principle of "sunset" legislation, which I have always supported.

There are no easy answers or quick solutions to reforming the regulatory process. I will continue to support meaningful Congressional oversight of the Federal Trade Commission and other Federal agencies to ensure that agency actions are consistent with Congressional intent and that businessmen are not burdened by unfair or unnecessary rules and regulations.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write. I hope you will continue to stay in touch.

Sincerely,

Gary Hart
Mr. Duane D. Pearsall  
6605 S. Jay Drive  
Littleton, Colorado 80123

Dear Mr. Pearsall:

Thank you for your letter regarding S. 1020, a bill to authorize appropriations for the Federal Trade Commission. I appreciate having the benefit of your thoughts, and would like to comment on your suggestions.

Amendment 212 to S. 1020 will make available a legislative veto on regulations proposed by the FTC. I am in favor of this amendment and intend to give it my support when this legislation comes up for vote.

I recently cosponsored an amendment which will prevent the FTC from using funds appropriated through the FTC authorization for the development of any regulation to establish federal standards of certification procedures where voluntary standards have been previously set by the industry itself. As you may know, the FTC has proposed a trade regulation rule to regulate the standards and certification process. I feel that such regulation would place a burden on both the manufacturing and selling communities, and would inhibit private business and citizen participation, as well as slow down the standards process.

Your comments on this subject were very helpful. I think you will find these amendments to be in agreement with your feelings. Please be assured that I will keep your views in mind when voting on this legislation.

Sincerely yours,

S. I. Hayakawa

SIH/pws