



## Republican National Committee

Counsel's Office

### FEDERAL REGULATORY BURDEN ON INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS

WHEREAS, In 1946 one of the major concerns of Republicans was the development of a federal regulatory agency system that created a fourth branch of government, prohibited by the Constitution, resulting in too much government in the lives of its citizenry;

WHEREAS, Years of empirical data, burdens on the regulated, and the exponential increase in the number of regulatory agencies has proven the 1946 concerns warranted;

WHEREAS, Those concerns are emphatically proven as unelected bureaucrats with little to no accountability to the American people continue to churn out regulations and rules equal in authority and scope to federal law on private business, public organizations and individual citizens;

WHEREAS, A recent article from *THE HILL* documents the above fact with this statement: “Working in her [Michelle Obama] favor is the fact that the standards imposed under the HHFKA [The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act] carry the force of law and will remain in place, even if the program technically lapses”;

WHEREAS, While most studies concerning regulatory burdens are skewed toward the ill effects on free enterprise and productivity/creativity in general, increasingly the individual productive citizen is becoming a major victim of such onerous regulation;

WHEREAS, Various regulatory agencies now have determined such minutiae that citizens’ next water heater will necessarily increase in physical size, that dishwashers will run for a minimum of 30 minutes longer, that home lighting no longer has the option of incandescent light bulbs, and that government has the obligation and legal right to administer an individual’s health care;

WHEREAS, A recent article from *HERITAGE FOUNDATION* clearly explains the extent to which individual liberty has been sacrificed to the altar of over-regulation: “In effect, efficiency standards allow the government to control how Americans clean their clothes, cook their food, wash their dishes, and light, heat, and cool their homes. No longer do consumers exercise the freedom to balance appliance performance against cost”; and

WHEREAS, The *Competitive Enterprise Institute* declares that federal regulation is a hidden tax with this statement: “U.S. households ‘pay’ \$14,974 annually in regulatory hidden tax, thereby ‘absorbing’ 23 percent of the average income of \$65,596, and ‘pay’ 29 percent of the expenditure budget of \$51,442. The ‘tax’ exceeds every item in the budget except housing. More is ‘spent’ on embedded regulation than on health care, food, transportation, entertainment, apparel and services, and savings”; therefore be it

*RESOLVED*, That Republicans call the current regulatory system by its obvious name and expose the attempt to create by subterfuge all the characteristics of a Central Planning Committee;

*RESOLVED*, That the Republican National Committee makes this a major issue in its campaign for all national political offices in 2016;

*RESOLVED*, That all interested Republican activists quiz each Republican Presidential Candidate to determine their positions concerning eliminating the federal regulatory burden on working/productive American individual citizens and their family households.

*\*As adopted by the Republican National Committee on August 7, 2015.*