

*"No man's life, liberty, or property are safe
while the legislature is in session."
Mark Twain*



WHAT WE'RE HEARING



Tariffs Tariffs Tariffs... In housing, there are four major components that could be impacted by tariffs: Lumber, Gypsum board, Steel & Aluminum and finally, appliances & fixtures. The first two items originate primarily in Canada and Mexico respectively, and are not included in the current rounds or are specifically excluded. The latter materials are broadly imported and could be impacted depending on the manufacturing country. It is important to understand how tariffs work, in order to understand the significance of "could." The metals received a 25% tariff and saw a price increase of approximately 5.5-7.1% increase as competition resistance keeping increases minimal. Twenty percent of appliances and fixtures are manufactured in China, while substantial in the aggregate, each must compete with lower cost items from around the world, predominantly allaying the increase fears. In the summary, if you know where the preferred product originates or its alternative, potential increases can be mitigated.



WHAT WE'RE TOUCHING



Order, Order! The Executive Order that created Regulations.gov was signed by President Bill Clinton in September 1993, with subsequent amendments and implementation guidance leading to the platform's establishment. While the order itself did not directly create Regulations.gov, it laid the groundwork for modernizing federal regulatory processes by mandating improved public access, transparency, and coordination in rule-making. Specifically, it required agencies to make regulatory documents publicly available and encouraged the use of electronic means for engagement. This led to the development of Regulations.gov, launched in 2003 under President George W. Bush's E-Government Act of 2002, which operationalized the order's goals. The platform centralizes federal regulations, proposed rules, and public comments, enabling online access and participation. It also established principles for cost-benefit analysis, regulatory planning, and interagency review, overseen by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), which continues to manage Regulations.gov.

In February, President Trump initiated an order that required the coordination of DOGE and OMB to consider all illegal and out of date regulations, as well as those nominated by the public, to be reviewed and recommended for elimination. National REIA encouraged a review of HUD's Emotional Support Animal rules as an overreach, and recommended a return to the core legislative intent invested in the DOJ regarding trained and certified guide animals. Individuals are encouraged to submit their own recommendations by visiting www.regulations.gov.



WHAT WE'RE SEEING



Regulatory Hold-up! The Trump Administration's 2nd term has prioritized deregulation, with HUD and the EPA as focal points. A new executive order implemented a more aggressive "one-in, ten-out" policy, requiring agencies to eliminate ten existing regulations for each new one. At HUD, efforts target streamlining or rescinding rules, such as the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH), aim to reduce local government compliance burdens. The EPA announced 31 deregulatory actions in March, including reconsidering the 2009 greenhouse gas endangerment finding (relaxing vehicle emissions standards) and changing water quality protections (citing economic benefits but raising public health concerns). These moves, coordinated with the DOGE, aim to lower costs but face legal challenges for bypassing notice-and-comment periods, potentially delaying implementation.



WHAT WE'RE SAYING



Encouragement: We are encouraging individuals and organizations to file rules and regulations to be rescinded. Never in our country has this option been so opportune. With the Executive Order requiring 10 regs to be removed in order for a new one to be put in place, SOME will need to come down. For the good of the country, regulations need to be thinned. The average home, per the Home Builders, has its base cost increased by over \$50k due to regulations. Some states have slowed their roll-on implementing "the latest" regs, realizing that the newest amenities likely results in unaffordable housing. That being said, too many laws erode the meaning of law. We have a strong tradition of being a country of laws, not of men, meaning that there is consistency and a lack of corruption evident in the rest of the world...too many regulations and bureaucrats undermines the Rule of Law. Individuals are encouraged to submit their own recommendations by visiting www.regulations.gov.

To that end, we continue to work with the New Civil Liberties Alliance (www.NCLAlegal.org) to legally challenge federal regulations that exemplify government overreach or executive branch mission creep into the judiciary via the Loper Bright/Relentless and Jarkesy cases. If you have a case that may work, please reach out asap.



THE SMELL TEST



Knowing Who: As a fan of Voltaire who laid the philosophical groundwork for the famous statement, "I may not agree with what you say, but I will fight to the death for your right to say it." Anytime someone starts labeling speech as hate speech – we know not only who the censor is, but also whose ideas won't stand up to the critique of the marketplace of ideas...

TASSELL NOTES



The Approach: When it comes to Trump's approach to Regulations, I am reminded of the following quote from President Ronald Reagan, "Mr. Gorbachev tear down this wall."

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