



**EXECUTIVE ORDER # 61**

**Relating to Job Creation and Small Business Expansion**

**WHEREAS**, creating jobs and growing our state's economy is dependent on a vibrant small business sector; and

**WHEREAS**, small businesses have generated 64% of net new jobs over the past fifteen years and employ over half of all private sector employees; and

**WHEREAS**, according to recent U.S. Census data, 86% of Wisconsin business employ fewer than 20 workers, and 74% have ten workers or less; and

**WHEREAS**, small businesses spend 80% more per worker than large employers to comply with government regulations and, according to a recent National Federation of Independent Business survey of Wisconsin employers, 91% said it was impossible to know about, comply with, and understand all of government's regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration, complying with government regulations costs small businesses \$10,585 per worker, which discourages investment and hiring by small businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, government regulations are regularly cited as one of the top three concerns for small business growth, according to NFIB's Small Business Optimism Index; and

**WHEREAS**, 2011 Wisconsin Act 46 strengthened Wisconsin's Small Business Regulatory Review Board (Board) empowering small business owners and giving them the ability to judge the economic impact of government regulation; and

**WHEREAS**, 2011 Wisconsin Act 46 requires state agencies to submit any rule with an economic impact to the Board for review and allows the Board to suggest changes to the agency that will improve compliance and reduce the rule's burden on small businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.30, the Board has the authority to review rules and guidelines of any agency to determine whether any of those rules or guidelines place an unnecessary burden on the ability of small businesses to conduct their affairs; and

**WHEREAS**, state agencies and the Board should not only be reviewing new rules but collaborating to reform existing rules that hinder job creation and small business expansion and that this effort would help further the state's goal of creating 250,000 jobs by 2015.

**NOW THEREFORE, I, SCOTT WALKER**, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this State, specifically Wis. Stat. § 227.10(2m), do hereby:

1. Require all state agencies to review 2011 Wisconsin Act 46 to ensure they are in compliance, ready to assist small business owners, and properly submitting any proposed rules with an economic impact to the Board;
2. Require all state agencies to cooperate with the Board to identify existing rules hindering job creation and small business growth;


3. Require all state agencies to work with the Board to recommend changes to these rules that will both reduce their burden on job creators while continuing to comply with the intent of the statutes that created them;
4. Require all state agencies to work with the Board to identify strategies that will increase compliance with existing rules;
5. Request that the Board engage small business owners and their representative organizations to gather input on any rules hindering job growth;
6. Request that the Board provide a report and analysis of these rules, in a manner similar to Wis. Stat. § 227.30(1), to the Governor's Office of Regulatory Compliance and the agency with the authority to amend the rules, which details the rules they have identified for modification.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done in the City of Eau Claire this twenty-second day of February, in the year two thousand twelve.

  
SCOTT WALKER  
Governor

By the Governor:

  
DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE  
Secretary of State