

# United States Senate

January 19, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Throughout your presidency, you have called on a bipartisan approach to problem solving. We have an opportunity at present to demonstrate to the American people that we can put differences aside to act in their best interest.

I was pleased that in your recent State of the Union address you called for cutting regulations that binds the hands of our private sector. In the past, you have expressed similar interest in repealing those regulations that do not make sense and where the burdens far exceed the benefits. I would very much welcome working with your Administration on this issue.

With regulatory costs amounting to \$1.88 trillion a year, it is imperative that we address regulations that are destroying economic progress and innovation in the United States.

To be clear, I am not against all regulations. Many of them are vital to the health and well-being of our citizens and country. Regulations that are beneficial should be left in place, but those that restrict our basic liberties and our economic well-being should be questioned and repealed. This is a topic that I spoke about frequently during my campaign for office and has been a primary focus of my first year in the Senate.

There is consensus that America's infrastructure is in dire need of repair, improvement, and replacement, yet this process is stymied time and again by unnecessary regulations that hold up projects across the United States. In my state, roads, mines, and projects, such as Shell's recent attempt to drill off of my state's coast, are routinely killed, delayed, or made cost-prohibitive because of an onslaught of federal regulations. As you know, we are working with our industry partners to build a \$65 billion liquefied natural gas (LNG) project that would provide much-needed clean burning natural gas to Americans and our allies throughout Asia. It is absolutely imperative for Alaska and for our country's energy security that the project not get mired in red tape. I hope that I can get your support to streamline this nationally-important energy project.

Regulations also stand in the way of an entrepreneur starting a small business and a couple buying their first home. Regulations restrict economic growth and limit the opportunities for the private sector to thrive. These needless regulations are standing in the way of our country meeting its full potential and put the ability to achieve the American dream at risk.

I hope that I can get support for S. 1944, the RED Tape Act, which I recently introduced. The letters RED stand for "Regulations Endanger Democracy" and I truly believe that they do. Simplifying our regulatory process would result in keeping or enacting streamlined laws that we need, while getting rid of regulations that unnecessarily complicate our lives and stifle our economic growth. My legislation would require a government agency to take an outdated regulation off the books for every new regulation that is proposed. Similar legislation has been working in Canada and the United Kingdom. I believe that it can be just as effective here in the United States.

Your State of the Union address called for both parties to work together to make the United States the best it can be. I hope that we can work together to focus on this important issue and take our country back from the grip of a broken regulatory system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan Sullivan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Senator Dan Sullivan