

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 23, 2016

CONTACT: John Boling
Direct: (202) 266-4310

Institute of Makers of Explosives Supports New Regulatory Reform Movement

Rethink Red Tape Coalition Formed to Examine the Impact Regulations Have on Small Manufacturers and to Provide Small Business Owners a Platform to Drive Smarter Regulation

Washington, D.C. — In response to the growing number of government regulations that unfairly burden America's small businesses, manufacturers and startups, the Institute of Makers of Explosives (IME) is adding its support to the newly launched **Rethink Red Tape** coalition and advocacy campaign, a project of the **National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)** and **Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council (SBE Council)**, in partnership with the International Franchise Association and Women Impacting Public Policy.

The multimillion-dollar campaign, which will engage lawmakers in Washington, D.C., and up to a dozen states, will highlight the challenges regulations pose to small businesses and small manufacturers and empower entrepreneurs, small business employees and key stakeholders to advocate legislative reforms that will lead to smarter regulations that help small manufacturers throughout the United States thrive.

Jay Timmons, NAM president and CEO, issued the following statement on the project's launch:

*"Smart, transparent and effective regulations are important to a successful system of free enterprise. However, manufacturers today bear a disproportionate share of the burden of regulatory compliance costs, and that's costing us jobs and opportunity. Manufacturers are committed to protecting our health and safety, but it's time to improve the regulatory process and start listening to America's small businesses. With efforts like **Rethink Red Tape**, we hope to make these important reforms a reality."*

Karen Kerrigan, SBE Council president and CEO, issued the following statement on the project's launch:

*"The men and women who own and operate American startups say complex and expensive regulations are among the biggest challenges they face when starting or growing their businesses or creating new jobs. Through **Rethink Red Tape**, we hope to change that."*

Deb Sakowiak, President, IME, an affiliate of the Council of Manufacturing Associations, stated:

"IME's mission is to advocate at all levels of government the adoption of rules and regulations consistent with safety and security in the manufacture, transportation, storage, handling, use and disposal of explosive materials. While we advocate for common-sense regulations that achieve these goals, we cannot support those that veer off the path and become duplicative or burdensome without a commensurate increase in safety or security. The majority of IME members are "small businesses" as determined by the U.S. Small Business Administration."

[Educational resources and facts](#) showing the impact today's regulatory environment has on the small business economy are featured on www.RethinkRedTape.com, alongside [personal stories from small business owners](#) who know the burden of overregulation firsthand.

With more than 56 million American jobs dependent on small firms and the vast majority of manufacturing companies qualifying as small businesses, Washington's broken regulatory system is a threat to U.S. economic health and U.S. manufacturing. It also harms our ability to meet policy objectives efficiently and effectively,

such as protecting public health, worker safety and the environment. **Rethink Red Tape** exists to reform the regulatory process and make it fairer, clearer and less obstructive to innovation and small manufacturing growth. Solutions promoted through **Rethink Red Tape** will reflect these five guiding principles:

- **Meaningful public and small business engagement in the rulemaking process**
- **Prioritization of unbiased, scientific information in rulemaking**
- **Consideration of public costs and benefits**
- **Transparency and clarity in how rules will be enforced and how compliance can be attained**
- **Regular evaluation of whether regulations are working**

Rethink Red Tape is a multiyear campaign that will educate Americans about the impact regulations have on small businesses and small manufacturers and about solutions that will lead to regulatory reform.

Small manufacturers, their employees and members of the public who would like to share their own regulatory experiences through **Rethink Red Tape** are encouraged to [join](#).

###

IME is a nonprofit association founded over a century ago to provide accurate information and comprehensive recommendations concerning the safety and security of commercial explosive materials. IME represents U.S. manufacturers, distributors and motor carriers of commercial explosive materials and oxidizers as well as other companies that provide related services. For more information visit: www.ime.org. Find us on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [@ImeExplosives](#).

***Rethink Red Tape** is a diverse coalition of organizations and individuals believing the federal government's regulatory process must be reformed so important goals, such as public health, environmental protection and consumer safety, are better balanced with the need to encourage more entrepreneurship and economic growth. Through an education and advocacy campaign, Rethink Red Tape will examine the impact regulations have on small businesses, American communities and the national economy and provide entrepreneurs a voice and platform to advocate reforms in the regulatory process. For more information, please visit www.RethinkRedTape.com. Follow on Twitter: [@RethinkRedTape](#).*