

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

January 17, 2018

The Honorable Trey Gowdy  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Gowdy,

The Yellow Pages Caucus writes today in strong support of Congressman John Duncan's Freedom from Government Competition Act of 2017, H.R. 1339 and encourages the Oversight and Government Reform Committee to hold a markup on this important piece of legislation.

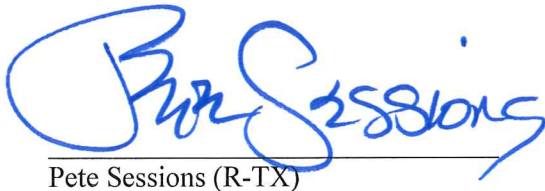
This bill is a simple piece of legislation that could save the government billions annually and would require the "Yellow Pages Test" on government services. As you know, the "Yellow Pages Test" says that if the government is doing something that can also be obtained from a private source listed in the Yellow Pages of the phone book, it should be studied to determine whether the private sector or Federal government can perform the services in the most cost efficient manner.

We believe this legislation is essential to reform the Federal government's appetite for wasteful spending. According to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in January 2015, 1.2 million Federal employees, 53 percent of the non-postal, non-uniformed military workforce of the Federal government are in jobs that are commercial in nature.

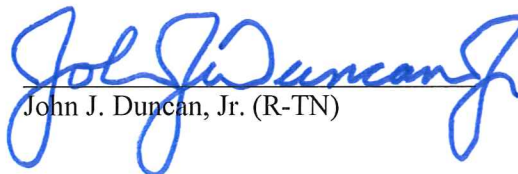
H.R. 1339 does not mandate privatization, divestiture, or contracting out. Additionally, activities that are inherently governmental, such as national defense, will still be performed by the government. However, this bill does put in place a processes to review every commercial activity in the Federal government so we can assure the taxpayers that they are getting the best value for their tax dollars spent.

In closing, as Members of the Yellow Pages Caucus, we respectfully request that the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee hold a markup on this important piece of legislation as soon as possible.


Sincerely,




Pete Sessions (R-TX)




John J. Duncan, Jr. (R-TN)

  
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Jeff Duncan (R-SC)

  
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Jody B. Hice (R-GA)

  
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John Culberson (R-TX)

  
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Jason Lewis (R-MN)