



**SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY POLICY,  
NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
REGULATORY AFFAIRS**

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**Doug Ose (CA-03), Chairman**

***PRESS RELEASE***

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 21, 2004

**OSE HEARING ON ADMINISTRATION'S  
ECONOMIC GROWTH PLAN COMPONENT  
FOR PAPERWORK REDUCTION**

WASHINGTON D.C. - House Government Reform Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs yesterday held its annual hearing on paperwork reduction. The hearing, entitled "What is the Bush Administration's Economic Growth Plan Component for Paperwork Reduction?," focused on the burdensome paperwork requirements for taxpayers and what the Bush Administration is doing to ease the burdens for Americans.

In February, the Fiscal Year 2005 Budget of the U.S. Government outlined the President's Six-point Economic Growth Plan. Point #4 is "[s]treamlining regulations and reporting requirements." The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) imposes over 80 percent of all paperwork burden levied on the public (including both individuals and businesses). This year's hearing focused on the Administration's accomplishments since last April's hearing and its plan for future IRS paperwork reduction.

"Paperwork reduction is of great concern to Congress, especially tax and regulatory paperwork," Ose said. "Today's hearing indicates that we are not doing enough to ease the regulatory and paperwork burden levied on the public. We need to amend existing tax legislation in order for the public to experience relief."

Mark W. Everson, Commissioner of the IRS, testified that the IRS has "made progress in addressing unnecessary taxpayer burden, but it remains a formidable challenge, especially when viewed within the context of an extremely complex and every-changing Internal Revenue Code."

Patricia A. Dalton, Director of Strategic issues at the General Accounting Office, discussed changes in the estimated Federal paperwork burden during the past year, with a particular focus on the IRS. She stated that “the total paperwork burden, exclusive of adjustments, actually increased by about 72 million burden hours.”