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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 19, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JERRY JONES

FROM:

JIM CONNOR *JEC*

The attached letter was returned in the President's outbox with the following notation:

"Contact him personally by phone
PFC"

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney
Max Friedersdorf - with original letters

Attachment:

Letter from Chuck Lien dated 11/5/75

Background: Congressman James Abdnor wrote to the President to alert him of this letter from Chuck Lien. Mr. Lien is a top-level Republican and citizen. Has run for the House and the Senate as candidate in the primaries. Is presently being wooed to take an active role in the Reagan campaign. The Congressman urges that efforts be made to enlist Mr. Lien in the work of the President Ford Committee.

~~Good copy~~
Contact him personally
by phone PFL

CHUCK LIEN
Box ~~302A~~ 440
RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701

November 5, 1975

MF
The Honorable Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Your deep love for our country is appreciated. I, too, have a deep love for this country. It is this sincere and honest love of country that compels me to write to you personally, as a friend, as a loyal Republican who has labored long in the vineyard of South Dakota GOP politics, and most of all, as an American who believes in you and the goals you have set for regaining that liberty-loving strength that our nation seems to have lost somewhere along the way.

As an operator of a small family owned business, I find less and less time to "operate" and "produce" because of the sea of laws, bureaucrats and their interfering arbitrary regulations put out under the guise of building a better, stronger America, but in effect putting a damper on achievement and success.

Small family owned free enterprise businesses produce more than 50% of our nation's goods each year. In my opinion, we are the single most important force in this great country in creating jobs, holding down inflation, and, through competition and efficiency, helping move our country forward.

Thirty years ago my father, brother, and I started business with little more than a used truck, a broken down rock crusher, and an honest American dream. We have enjoyed success on a limited basis in our field. The OPPORTUNITY to try is the most important factor that I can leave to my children, and that you can leave to your children, and the children of this country. To curtail or limit the OPPORTUNITY of future generations to participate in the give and take of American economic life would be a fatal mistake. This process, that you and I, along with millions of Americans, have so enjoyed, has helped make this nation the greatest in the world.

CHUCK LIEN
Box ~~311~~ 440
RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford
November 5, 1975
Page 2

In the past few years, I have personally felt the vigor and strength of this OPPORTUNITY deteriorate and weaken to a point where I'm concerned about the survival of this OPPORTUNITY for future generations. With every fiber in my body, I believe the evil root of the problem confronting all of us is excessive, oppressive, federal regulations that continually limit our freedom and make a mockery of independent decision making.

If it is true, and I believe it is, that the government which governs least governs best, then it is true that the best regulatory legislation is that which regulates least. We fully realize that for the safety and well-being of all Americans some regulation is necessary. Regulatory legislation which started out to "serve and nourish economic life," however, has so many unnecessary facets that it is much like an unattended garden where the weeds have rooted and branched, and, where, unfortunately, government money ends up fertilizing the weeds. These in turn, choke off healthy, vibrant plants which have made the garden a success in the past.

Mr. President, I have reached a crossroads in my mind and I need your help. The success in my business can be enlarged and I will be better off financially if I just shut up and go along with the trend. Had I tried 10 years ago to obtain a virtual monopoly for a few of us in our type of business, the U. S. Government would have rightly thrown me in jail. Today the U. S. Government is handing me that monopoly on a silver platter through regulations and asking me to enjoy it.

I cannot and will not accept that gift because it kills the OPPORTUNITY for future generations to help build and keep this country great. I, and millions of producing, tax paying Americans that pay the everyday bills of this country, are drowning in a sea of federal regulations and reporting forms. The freedom to compete fairly with others is all that we ask.

CHUCK LIEN
Box ~~424~~ 440
RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford
November 5, 1975
Page 3

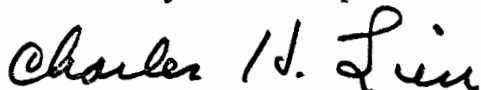
Your recent pledge to give us this freedom is the most important pledge made by any leader in our generation. I know and appreciate that some bureaucrats and regulations are necessary, but I believe the far greater percentage of them are worthless.

You know as well as I that the multitude of stifling regulations and interpretations of those regulations by bureaucrats are so numerous that we could fill your entire office with examples. This is a classic case of government overkill. Though I am tired, I am hopeful. Your recent pledge gave me that hope and renewed my belief that we might once again be free Americans.

The task you've taken on of cutting through red tape, minimizing regulations and drastically cutting the almost unlimited power of bureaucrats, seems monumental. Take heart--there are millions of us who will help you make your pledge come true to preserve, protect and propagate that great OPPORTUNITY of free enterprise for all future generations.

I want to help protect that honest American dream for others. Tell me how I can assist you.

Sincerely and respectfully,



Charles H. Lien

CHL:djr

cc: Hon. James Abdnor

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 18, 1975

Dear Chuck:

Your November 5 letter to me sets forth in a very meaningful way the impact of Federal regulations on the American citizen. It also reflects very vividly my own concern that we must take action to remove outmoded regulations that make life harder for millions of American workers, businessmen, and taxpayers.

Earlier this year I directed every department and agency of the Federal government to survey its requirements which are imposed on businesses and individuals and to seek to eliminate the multitude of forms that plague every citizen. In mid-year I was told that there are approximately 5,200 such applications and forms. I have directed the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, as a first step, to reduce this number by at least 300 or 400 within the next 12 months. In addition, I am working with the independent agencies, such as the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Trade Commission and the other regulatory bodies, in conjunction with the Congress, to get them to eliminate some of their outmoded, outdated regulatory requirements.

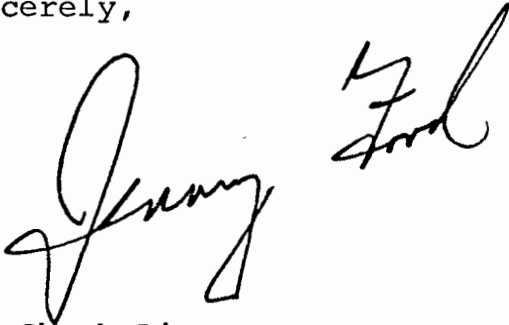
I cannot think of a better gift for America in our Bicentennial year than to reduce the unnecessary red tape which plagues the citizens of all 50 States.

I appreciate knowing that you share my concern that regulatory reform is essential. Although this is one of my priority objectives, there are other areas in which action is necessary to ensure the well-being of all Americans. Some of these goals cannot be achieved in the months remaining in this Administration, but I am confident that another four years in office will afford me the opportunity to keep our country on the course I have charted.

I want to thank you again for writing and to express to you the hope that you will be supporting me in what you so aptly stated in your letter -- an effort to preserve, protect and propagate that great opportunity of free enterprise for all future generations. With your assistance I know we can succeed.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jimmy Ford". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name "Ford".

Mr. Chuck Lien
Box 440
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701