



FAIR Act Turns 16, Fight for Full Implementation Continues

Key Federal Law on Government Competition Reaches 16th Anniversary *FAIR Act Saves Taxpayer Dollars and Promotes Private Sector Business Opportunities*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Reston, VA, October 17, 2014 - Calling it "a federal law that is as relevant today as it was the day it was signed, if not more so," the Business Coalition for Fair Competition ([BCFC](#)) today commemorates the 16th anniversary of the enactment of the Federal Activities Inventory Reform ([FAIR](#)) Act of 1998, signed into law on October 19, 1998 by President Bill Clinton.

[Public Law 105-270](#) provides "a process for identifying the functions of the Federal Government that are not inherently governmental."

Thanks to the [efforts](#) of the late-Senator Craig Thomas (R-WY) and Representative John J. "Jimmy" Duncan, Jr. (R-TN), the law helps save tax dollars and focus Federal agencies on core missions.

BCFC was instrumental in recommending passage of the FAIR Act by Congress and enactment into law by the President in 1998 and continues to endorse full implementation by the office of Management and Budget and individual agencies.

BCFC President John Palatiello said, "In 1999, the initial Clinton-Gore Administration inventory found more than 850,000 federal employees were engaged in commercial activities that duplicate and in some cases compete with private enterprise, including small business. These activities range from architecture to zoology and include scores of other activities including apparel, audits, buses, construction, debt and bill collections, campgrounds and concessions, engineering, equipment repair and maintenance depots, film studios and theater management, FOIA software, food service and security, furniture, graphics, hearing aid and medical supply distribution, information technology and data centers, insurance, laboratories, landscaping, laundry and dry cleaning, office products, pest management and wildlife control, manufacturing, mapping, meeting planning, marketing research, motorcoaches, printing and chart production, public storage, recycling and waste management, road signage, roofing, security technologies and products, simulation technology and services, surveying, tax preparation, transportation, travel planning, and utilities."

"We have a government that is simply too big to succeed," Palatiello said. "The FAIR Act is the first step toward the "Yellow Pages test", that is to subject to market competition those government activities that can all be obtained from private sector companies, including small business, found in the Yellow pages of the phone book."

The Obama Administration's implementation of "[insourcing](#)" -- the conversion of work previously carried out by contractors into agencies for performance by federal employees, has exacerbated the problem of government competition and duplication of the private sector.

Jacques Gansler, undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics in the Clinton

Administration said it best. "The surest way to reduce and hold down procurement costs is through competition, whether among commercial providers or between commercial providers and in-house government alternatives. For the latter cases, no matter who wins, the savings have been more than 30 percent."

Or, as former New York governor Mario Cuomo once said, "It is not a government's obligation to provide services, but to see that they are provided."

"It is time to ensure the Executive Branch fully implements the inventory provisions of the 1998 FAIR Act, lower the cost of government, create private sector jobs, reduce the debt and deficit, and focus federal employees on activities and functions only government can perform," Palatiello concluded.

About BCFC

The Business Coalition for Fair Competition (BCFC) is a national coalition of businesses, associations, taxpayer organizations and think tanks that are committed to reducing all forms of unfair government created, sponsored and provided competition with the private sector. BCFC believes the free enterprise system is the most productive and efficient provider of goods and services and strongly supports the Federal government utilizing the private sector for commercially available products and services to the maximum extent possible.

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