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Congress of the United States  
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Washington, DC 20515-1202

May 12, 2009

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## Support a Yellow Pages Test for Goods and Services

Dear Colleague:

Each time there has been a White House Conference on Small Business, one of the top issues identified by American entrepreneurs is unfair government-sponsored competition with the private sector.

Perhaps you've heard of the "Yellow Pages" test. It is a simple test that has been applied by mayors and governors, both Democrat and Republican, which says if the Yellow Pages list several firms that currently provide services that the government is also providing, then the service should be subject to competition.

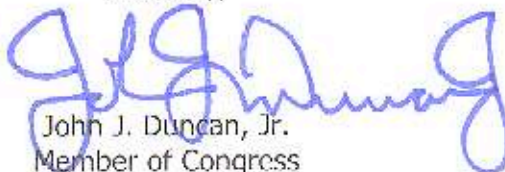
Since the enactment of the Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act (Public Law 105-270) in 1998, less than 10 percent of the 850,000 positions in the federal government deemed commercial in nature have actually been reviewed.

This is why I am introducing and asking for your support of the Freedom from Government Competition Act. It allows for a "Yellow Pages" test to review every commercial activity in the federal government. Use of this test on the positions identified under the FAIR Act, if completed within five years, could reap annual savings of between \$20 billion and \$28 billion.

The Freedom from Government Competition Act does not mandate privatization. It does, however, provide several options for the Executive Branch by preserving those activities that are inherently governmental (those that only the government should do) and injecting competition into those functions that are commercial in nature. It implements a "Yellow Pages" test to make certain the government is not unfairly competing with small business and to assure that products and services are provided at the best value to the taxpayer.

I invite you to join me as a cosponsor of the Freedom from Government Competition Act. For additional information or to become a cosponsor of this bill, please contact Amy Westmoreland of my staff at x5-5435 or [amy.westmoreland@mail.house.gov](mailto:amy.westmoreland@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



John J. Duncan, Jr.  
Member of Congress