

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleague:

What do parking lots, lotteries, roads, airports, horse race tracks, parks, recycling, golf courses and zoos have in common? All across America, these are activities formerly operated by government that are now being run as businesses through privatization, contracting out, or public-private partnerships.

Cities as diverse as Chicago, Phoenix, Charlotte, Indianapolis and San Diego all have impressive bipartisan records for undertaking various forms of managed competition – turning government monopolies into enterprises subject to a competitive market. Mayors and Governors, Republican and Democrat alike, have discovered the power of the market to improve the delivery of commercially available services.

These leaders have implemented the “Yellow Pages’ Test”. That is a principle that says if government is doing something that can also be obtained from a private company listed in the Yellow Pages of the phone book, it should be studied to determine if service quality, cost, and innovation can be improved through the private sector so that government employees are focused on higher priority, “inherently government” activities only the government can perform.

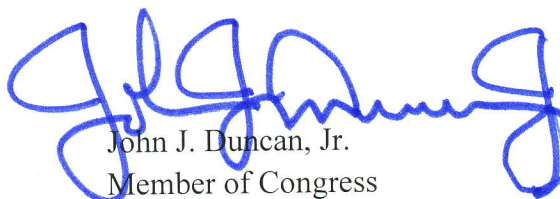
There is a critical need to implement such a reform in the Federal government. According to the Office of Management and Budget, 1.2 million Federal employees, 53 percent of the non-postal, non-uniformed military workforce of the Federal government are in jobs that are commercial in nature. Most of these jobs and functions have never been analyzed for potential private sector performance.

In order to implement the Yellow Pages Test across the Federal government, I have introduced **H.R. 2044, the Freedom from Government Competition Act**. This bill does not mandate privatization, divestiture, or contracting out. However, it does put in place a process to review every commercial activity in the Federal government so we can assure taxpayers they are getting “the most bang for the buck” of their tax dollar we spend.

With an annual deficit of almost \$500 billion and a national debt of \$18 trillion, we cannot afford to perpetuate inefficient bureaucracies and have government doing things better left to private enterprise.

To join as an original cosponsor of the Freedom from Government Competition Act, please contact Don Walker of my staff at 5-5435 (don.walker@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



John J. Duncan, Jr.
Member of Congress