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**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives**

Washington, DC 20515

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ASSISTANT WHIP

**COMMITTEE ON
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Dear Colleague:

Did you know that the Federal government employs 1.6 million Executive Branch, Non-Postal, Full-time, Permanent Employees? (Source: OPM)

Did you know that more than half – some 850,000 of those employees – are in jobs that are “commercial” in nature? (Source: OMB)

And did you know that only a handful of those 850,000 positions have been studied to determine whether government employees or private sector workers can perform these “commercial” activities more effectively?

Perhaps you’ve heard of the “Yellow Pages” test. This test has been applied by Mayors and Governors, both Democrat and Republican. Simply, if the Yellow Pages show that several firms now provide services that the government is also providing, then the service should be subject to competition to break up the government monopoly and prove a better value to the taxpayer.

Since Congress enacted the Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act (Public Law 105-270) in 1998, and the Clinton Administration identified 850,000 Federal positions that could be subject to the Yellow Pages test, less than 10 percent of those positions have actually been reviewed.

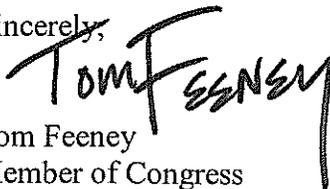
If the FAIR Act list positions are competed within five years, annual savings will amount to between \$20 billion and \$28 billion.

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.

I invite you to join me as a cosponsor of the Competitive Open Markets Protection (COMP) Act. This bill does not mandate privatization. It does, however, provide for a process to review every commercial activity in the government. It preserves those activities that are inherently governmental (those only the government should do), injects competition into those that are commercial in nature, and provides several options for the Executive Branch to implement. It implements a “Yellow Pages” test to make certain government is not unfairly competing with small business and to assure that products and services are provided at the best value to the taxpayer.

Please contact Erin Kanoy in my office at e.kanoy@mail.house.gov or (202) 225-2706 if you are interested in cosponsoring this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "TOM FEENEY". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. The "T" is large and loops back under the "O". The "F" is tall and has a long vertical stroke extending downwards.

Tom Feeney
Member of Congress