

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee
Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management Subcommittee

Ranking Member Margaret Wood Hassan
Opening Statement

Wednesday, July 17, 2019

Thank you Mr. Chairman, I appreciate your work and your staff's work on this hearing. And I also want to thank the witnesses for being here today to provide their expertise on these issues.

As members of the Federal Spending Oversight subcommittee, we have an obligation to examine all federal spending in order to ensure that taxpayer dollars are used efficiently and effectively. Today's hearing focuses on how regulations drive federal spending, and how accountability within the regulatory process may prevent unnecessary or even wasteful spending. I have long supported eliminating outdated and burdensome regulations that stymie economic growth and innovation – and I would be glad to work with you on that.

At the same time, I also believe that government's first job is to keep the people who we serve safe. Many regulations are intended to protect Americans from harmful products, infectious diseases, and financial exploitation. As we work to both foster innovation and also protect the American people, today's hearing reminds us that we need to account for the costs of establishing any common sense safeguards, as well as the costs of failing to provide adequate protections. Keeping track of regulatory-driven spending must involve strong Congressional oversight, robust input from non-federal stakeholders, and a thorough judicial review process.

I look forward to hearing from our witnesses today about the adequacy of the checks and safeguards that exist to cut unnecessary or unlawful regulatory spending. Most importantly, I hope our witnesses can help us to identify ways to continue to improve this process in order to safeguard taxpayers' dollars, while ensuring basic protections of public safety and the quality of life that Americans hold dear.

Thank you again Mr. Chairman for holding this hearing, and to the witnesses for your attendance.