

August 15, 2012

BusinessWise: Now that's Common Sense

Written by Tom Cooney and Crystal Faulkner

There seems to be so much red tape that comes along with owning my own business. I heard about a state initiative that is helping business owners avoid excess costs and needless rules and regulations. Can you shed light on this?

You are referring to the Ohio Common Sense Initiative (CSI). Gov. John Kasich established the CSI in January 2011 and assigned oversight and implementation to Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor. CSI is a process for independently evaluating the economic impact of state agency regulations on Ohio businesses.

We are well informed about this initiative as Crystal Faulkner (a co-author of this column) is a member of the CSI's nine-person Small Business Advisory Committee. This committee serves as the "voice" of small business and helps identify stifling rules and regulations that are hindering business growth in Ohio.

The good news for business owners is there are no guidelines or restrictions for implementing change. It's simply a matter of bringing your idea or solution to the attention of the CSI Office or to a member of the Small Business Advisory Committee.

The CSI Office functions as a partnership between state agencies, the business community and the public to develop a regulatory framework that balances the important need for regulation with the equally important need to promote economic development and job creation.

Even though the CSI has been active since 2011, many businesses are still unaware of the positive impact the initiative has had on economic development and job creation. The CSI Office just released its 2012 mid-year report that tracked progress and results to date.

Since formal rule reviews commenced at the beginning of this year, 529 rules have been reviewed, and 249 of them have been rescinded or amended. Additionally, the CSI has issued 18 recommendations, all of which have been implemented.

Article continued here: <http://news.cincinnati.com/article/20120815/BIZ/308150108/BusinessWise-Now-s-Common-Sense>

###