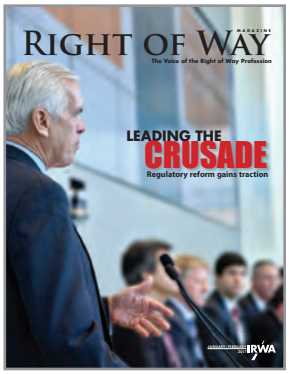
In Defense of Governmental Regulations



I just received this month's issue of the publication. After reading the cover story "Billions for Red Tape" by Philip K. Howard, and the articles "Ethics Reform Makes Headlines" and "Confronting Regulatory Accumulation," it went straight into the trash. It never fails to amaze me when contractors complain about the government process that provides them with a living.

Nobody will deny that there are not instances of overregulation and project delays brought on by those rules. But everyone seems to forget that most of the regulations were promulgated as a result of past abuses by agencies and contractors ignoring existing environmental laws or rules regarding the acquisition of property. For the author of the ethics article to complain about Dodd-Frank after the taxpayers first bailed out the savings and loan industry in the 1990s and then had to go a second round and bail out the banks and Wall Street in the early 2000s is frankly appalling.

In my 18 years working for government, I have never met a contractor that was not a Republican and who did not complain about the taxes he paid every chance he got and then turned around and abused the change order process to dig as deep into the taxpayers' pockets as possible.

If this publication is going to turn into a platform for the oil and gas industry, antigovernment "progressives" and contractors who rely on government for their livelihood to complain about government and governmental employees, I will not be renewing my membership to the IRWA. In addition, save the environment and feel free not to mail the magazine.

Keith B. Filegar
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