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Chair, Public Policy Committee

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Last month, the Public Policy Committee created a new subcommittee to address one of the top three issues identified as priorities for public policy dealing with various federal regulations, mostly within the US Department of Labor (DOL), called the Employment Regulatory Committee. The DOL has proposed new regulations applied to businesses that have been published in the Federal Register, with the final rule expected to be released as early as this spring.

The committee looked at several aspects of the proposed regulations and selected one impact area, payment of overtime eligibility, as an area of great concern to our Chamber members. The regulations would amend the threshold for eligibility for overtime from the current salary threshold of \$23,660 to \$50,440 annual gross income. Nationally, the U.S. Department of Labor estimates 4.6 million currently exempt workers would be affected by this proposed regulation.

In addition, by advocating to our federal legislators how these regulations will affect job growth, the committee will also be exploring this issue in the context of the process by which regulations are issued. The Government Accountability Office has found that 35% of major federal regulations are issued without a public notice and comment period. (Major regulations are defined as those that would have an annual effect on the economy of at least \$100 million.) Although the regulations are close to being final, the Congressional Review Act or Administrative Procedure Act may act as a vehicle to block their implementation. The committee will also analyze state processes v. federal process for issuing regulations and identify ways to advocate for change that particularly impacts our businesses.

As this is an important issue for our members, we are grateful to the subcommittee members who have volunteered to take on these issues head on. We will keep you updated on the subcommittee's progress and will likely reach out to our members to gather relevant information on how these regulations will directly impact your business or organization.