



# Center for Regulatory Effectiveness

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April 28, 2003

Ms. Loraine Hunt  
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs  
Office of Management and Budget  
NEOB, Room 10202  
725 17<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20503

Subject: Draft 2003 Report to Congress on the Costs and Benefits of Federal Regulations

Dear Ms. Hunt:

The Center for Regulatory Effectiveness (CRE) respectfully submits the following Supplemental Comments in response to OMB's February 3, 2003 *Federal Register* Notice and request for comments on the Draft 2003 Report to Congress on the Costs and Benefits of Federal Regulations. These Comments are in addition to the March 6, 2003 Comments we filed on the same Notice.

OMB has requested comments on a number of important regulatory issues. One of OMB's requests is for comments on their guidelines for regulatory analysis. OMB notes that the current guidelines were issued as a "best practices" document and that the agency has undertaken a project to refine and improve the current guidelines. One of the goals of the revised guidelines, according to the *Federal Register* Notice, is to increase the transparency of the analytic process. [68 FR 5498] In keeping with the goals of improved, uniform and transparent analyses based on best practices, we recommend that, in addition to the specific recommendations contained in the draft Report, OMB adopt the statistical principles and guidelines contained in Appendix A of the Department of Transportation's Information Dissemination Quality Guidelines. These statistical guidelines contain specific provisions designed to promote transparency throughout the analytic process. Also contained in the document are analytic principles for employing sound statistical methods, identifying and correcting errors, promoting openness and ensuring clarity of work products.

The DOT Guidelines have been extensively analyzed by the CRE. Our "white paper" concluded that the DOT Guidelines set a benchmark standard for information quality practices. The CRE paper is attached and may also be found on our website at, [www.TheCRE.com/pdf/benchmark.pdf](http://www.TheCRE.com/pdf/benchmark.pdf). We have also attached the statistical guidelines portion of the DOT guidelines.

## Center for Regulatory Effectiveness

- 2 -

We believe that, if adopted by OMB as part of their regulatory analysis guidance, the statistical DOT Guidelines would improve the quality, uniformity and transparency of regulatory analyses. Furthermore, as explained in our white paper, government-wide use of the DOT statistical guidelines would help improve compliance by agencies with the Paperwork Reduction Act. We conclude that the DOT's statistical guidelines are a "best practice" and we recommend that they be incorporated into OMB's regulatory analysis guidelines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Levinson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Bruce Levinson  
Director, Federal Liaison Activities

Attachments