



On January 20, 2021, President Biden issued a memorandum entitled, “Modernizing Regulatory Review,” which directs the Federal government to begin a process with the goal of producing a set of recommendations for improving and modernizing regulatory review. These recommendations should provide concrete suggestions on how the regulatory review process can promote public health and safety, economic growth, social welfare, racial justice, environmental stewardship, human dignity, equity, and the interests of future generations. The recommendations should also include proposals that would ensure that regulatory review serves as a tool to affirmatively promote regulations that advance these values. The memorandum also stated that recommendations should be informed by public engagement with relevant stakeholders.

In response to that request for public engagement, the Department of Labor (Department) received 209 letters asserting that— under current regulations— farmworkers, landscapers, and people of color suffer disproportionate health risks due to environmental factors such as toxic chemical exposure and that these concerns are ignored under current regulations. In response, the authors request that the Department conduct a review analyzing existing regulatory decisions, particularly with respect to their impact on health risks due to toxic chemical exposure.

Because of the volume of letters we received, the Department is unable to respond to each writer individually. However, we share the concerns about health disparities in vulnerable groups, including Black, brown, and indigenous people, and will keep those concerns in mind as we provide our recommendations in response to President Biden’s request. The Department would also like to thank all of the members of the public that wrote to us for their engagement in this process.

Sincerely,

*Stephanie Swirsky*

Stephanie Swirsky  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy  
U.S. Department of Labor