

August 15, 2009

Before I retired, I spent most of my working years in clerical and administrative support positions, including for the State of Kansas. Although I have officially retired from that position, I still have a small bookkeeping business that I continue to do part-time. While I wish I was working just to keep busy, in this economy, most people cannot afford to retire. So, it is imperative that the federal government stay out of business operations.

Even though my business is small and likely will not be directly affected by changes to the shareholder proxy rule, what hurts big businesses eventually hurts all of us. I do get office supplies and equipment from large corporations, so if they have to raise their prices as a result of this rule change, my costs will go up. For a small business like mine, any increase in costs can hurt my profit. In addition, when big businesses raise their prices, it hurts consumers as well. My husband and I are semi-retired, and it is a struggle to get by as it is. If my business is no longer profitable because of this unnecessary rule change, I am not sure how it will affect us. It certainly will not help our situation.

This damage from this rule change will be far reaching and long lasting. Right now, our economy needs stability, but the rule change will provide the exact opposite. Large businesses will be directly hurt, and the repercussions will trickle down to smaller businesses like mine. Of course, the consumer will pay the ultimate price for all of this government interference, as usual. As a small business owner and on a more personal level, I truly hope that this proposal will not be approved.