

Federal Prison Industries Competition in Contracting

Rep. Bill Huizenga, MI-02 introduced HR 2098, the Federal Prison Industries Competition in Contracting Act of 2013. The legislation will allow textile rental services to compete on equal footing.

Background:

Under this bill, a government-owned corporation that employs federal prisoners (UNICOR) to manufacture goods or perform services to fulfill contracts with federal agencies and departments, would be required to submit a detailed analysis of the impact to the private sector before entering into new product markets and would not be able to sell products commercially or internationally; their only customer could be the federal government.

Congress should look for ways to make the federal government more efficient and cost-effective. This bill would force federal agencies to bid for contracts that reflect fair and reasonable prices and for products that best suit their needs. This is simply one more easy, common sense way to preserve jobs and help restore economic security for America. This legislation protects American jobs while better preparing inmates for a successful return to society.

This bill does not destroy the Federal Prison Industries (FPI) program. It simply limits the scope of companies that FPI can compete with in the federal sector. In 2006, this bill passed the House by a vote of 362-57.

Action:

Please ask your Member of Congress to contact Representative Huizenga's office to add their name to the list of cosponsors and to support the bill.