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July 15, 2010

Barack Obama, President
White House
Washington, DC

Re: Job Creation and Dr. Kristina Johnson, Under Secretary of Energy

Dear Mr. President

On behalf of small and innovative businesses in America, we would like to commend your Under Secretary of Energy, Dr. Kristina Johnson. In numerous speeches you and other key members of your Administration have stated that small business is the engine that drives the US economy. One member of your Administration in particular has put these words into action, Dr. Johnson. She not only understands that small innovative companies create the jobs in America, but she and the Department of Energy have done something to truly help create jobs and provide new innovative products.

Prior to joining the Administration she had been a successful small business woman, University Provost and recipient of funding from the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. She immediately applied her experience to her new job. Together with staff at DOE, she found that there were over \$100 million of meritorious proposals in the DOE that had not been funded under the SBIR program. She also knew that this program had been creating over 20% of all key innovations in America with only 2.5 % of Federal R&D funding (please see: http://www.itif.org/files/Where_do_innovations_come_from.pdf). In speeches before the National Academy of Sciences and at the National SBIR conference she discussed her experience with the SBIR program and its success. She reached out to the small business community and listened. She learned that the DOE Small Business Innovation Research program recipients needed additional funding to rapidly transition these important technologies into the marketplace.

She took this information to DOE Secretary Dr. Steven Chu who agreed and they created an SBIR Phase III program to sponsor some of these promising technologies with \$30 million of new funds (without requiring cost sharing that would have slowed down or made the process impossible for small business). These projects will result in the creation of thousands of jobs, and equally importantly, provide important new technology products in the energy fields.

Dr. Johnson, Secretary Chu and the Department of Energy should be recognized for their prompt contribution to small business and job creation. DOE is the first agency to create such a program. We are reminded of President Kennedy's famous saying: "One man (person) can make a difference, and everyone should try." Thank you for selecting Dr. Johnson as your Under Secretary of Energy, a person who has truly made a difference.

Sincerely,

Jere W. Glover
Executive Director
Small Business Technology Council



National Small Business Association
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