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The Honorable Norman Dicks
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
2467 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

September 8, 2010

Dear Chairman Dicks-

The Small Business Technology Council would like to applaud your support of the Rapid Innovation Program at the Department of Defense. One of the most difficult aspects of being a small business is transitioning a successful proven technology to the marketplace, and this program will provide the resources necessary to enable small businesses make that transition. It will also expedite fielding of new technologies, and outfit the warfighter with the most advanced equipment available.

The need for increased DOD SBIR transition outcomes has never been greater. There are hundreds of SBIR companies with good, proven technologies, but without the funding to transition them to the marketplace. Because they have already competed for Phase I and Phase II contracts, there is no reason to run new competitions, which accelerates transitioning solutions to the warfighter while avoiding months or years of expensive contracting competitions – which in the case of SBIR have already been competed.

We would like to especially thank you and the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee for going beyond what was recommended by the House Armed Services Committee and appropriating \$504 million for research and development, plus an additional \$100 million for procurement. This \$604 million appropriation shows a strong commitment to this new program, and demonstrates your leadership on behalf of America's small business.

Although both the House Armed Services Committee and the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee have offered clear instructions on how these funds should be used, there is still concern that the Department of Defense would redirect these resources for use elsewhere. We know from your statements that you understand the importance of making sure these funds go to small businesses – our nation's innovative and economic engine. The fastest, most efficient way to provide solutions to the warfighter is to leverage a proven, successful small business program like the SBIR program and its established processes to accelerate transitions. We urge you to make sure these funds aren't redirected to another program.

Thank you again for your support,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jere W. Glover". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jere Glover
Executive Director
Small Business Technology Council



A council of the National Small Business Association



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The following Washington State SBIR companies have read and cosigned this letter:

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