



December 14, 2012

The Honorable Carl Levin
United States Senate
269 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John McCain, III.
United States Senate
241 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Buck McKeon
United States House of Representatives
2310 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
United States House of Representatives
2264 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Levin, Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member McCain, and Ranking Member Smith:

As you proceed to conference on the Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), I encourage you and your colleagues to incorporate the small business contracting reform provisions included in the House-passed FY 13 NDAA as well as the provisions included in the Senate-passed bill that will remove the cap on contract awards to women-owned small businesses. Having long advocated for a more efficient and effective federal contracting system, the National Small Business Association (NSBA) welcomes enhancements, such as those included in the aforementioned provisions, that will promote and facilitate competition, job creation, and sustainable economic growth all at a time when our country needs them the most.

Small businesses provide high-quality goods and services to federal contracting agencies and infuse the federal procurement system with much-needed competition. In turn, the federal government invests in the most dynamic and innovative sector of our economy. Small businesses comprise 99.7% of all domestic employer firms, employ approximately 50% of all private sector employees, and have created roughly 65% of America's new net jobs over the past 17 years.

NSBA was extremely pleased to see that the House-passed bill included a number of key provisions addressing everything from contract bundling and government-wide small business contracting goals to increased transparency and an enhanced role for small business advocates in the federal procurement process, among others. NSBA is also grateful to see language included in the Senate-passed bill that will remove the cap on contract awards to women-owned small businesses, a critical component of our contracting base.

NSBA represents more than 65,000 entrepreneurs and small businesses in virtually every industry across the country and is the nation's oldest small business advocacy organization. Reforming and enhancing the federal contracting process is one of NSBA's top priorities this year, and we look forward to working with you and your staff to ensure the enactment of these key provisions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd McCracken", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Todd O. McCracken
President

Cc: Members of the Senate Armed Services Committee
Members of the House Armed Services Committee
Members of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
Members of the House Committee on Small Business