



The Honorable Nydia Velazquez
Ranking Member
House Committee on Small Business
2069 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Chabot
Chairman
House Committee on Small Business
2361 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Chabot and Ranking Member Velazquez:

On behalf of the National Small Business Association (NSBA), the nation's first small-business advocacy organization, with more than 65,000 small-business members representing every state and every industry across the country, I commend your leadership for introducing legislation that will ensure that small businesses in underutilized economic areas have fair and equal access to the federal marketplace.

NSBA is pleased to support the bipartisan HUBZone Uniformity and Business Stability (HUBS) Act of 2017 (H.R. 3294), which would make important reforms to the Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) program, a procurement initiative that provides federal assistance to businesses in economically distressed areas. Created in 1998, the HUBZone program helps small companies in these areas to do business with the federal government and awards over \$400 billion dollars in federal contracts each year.

NSBA has long supported the HUBZone program, as it was designed to provide economic opportunity to rural counties, that have low-household incomes, high unemployment, and whose communities have suffered from a lack of investment. The reforms included in H.R. 3294 are crucial to the continued ability of the program to fulfill its mandate of creating jobs and providing economic development in emerging communities.

Specifically, NSBA endorses H.R. 3294, because it provide HUBZone eligibility to qualified areas listed on a publicly accessible online tool. The SBA would be required to update the tool beginning on Jan. 1, 2020 and every five years thereafter, immediately after an area ceases to be a redesignated area, and immediately after an area is designated as a base closure area or a qualified disaster area. Since this tool is regularly updated, it would ensure HUBZone firms have the latest information on HUBZone eligible areas. The bill would also require the SBA to publish performance metrics measuring the HUBZone program's success in promoting economic development in economically distressed areas.

HUBZones not only bolster the small-business community, but will also breathe new life into struggling neighborhoods. The provisions in this bill would ensure the initiative functions more efficiently and effectively, creating greater opportunity in areas that face significant economic hurdles.

On behalf of NSBA and our more than 65,000 members, I would like to thank you for your diligent and indispensable efforts to extend the protections included under the HUBZone program used by small businesses. We look forward to working with you to enact this critical piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd McCracken". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Todd McCracken
President & CEO