

**Congress of the United States**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Small Business**  
2361 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6515

April 16, 2013

The Honorable Ray LaHood  
Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

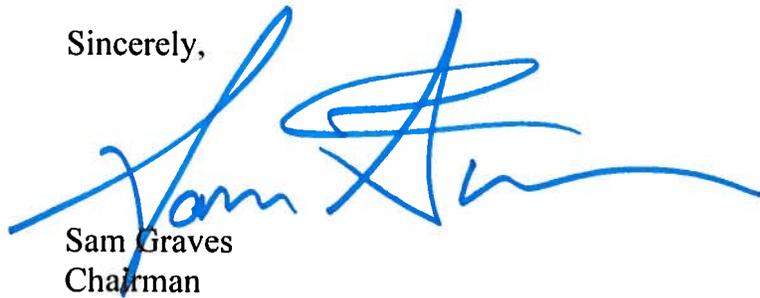
As you know, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2013, Public Law 112-239, made significant changes to the organization and duties of each of the Offices of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU). These changes are reflected in the revised Section 15(k) of the Small Business Act, a copy of which is attached.

As the result of a March 19, 2013, hearing held by the Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce in conjunction with the Committee on Veterans' Affairs' Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, it has come to my attention that some agencies were either unaware of recent changes to Section 15(k) or had not yet implemented the changes. These critical revisions include changes to the reporting relationship between the OSDBU Director and you; the prioritization of the OSDBUs work; prohibitions on the OSDBU holding other positions; improvements to the reporting relationship between small business specialists and the OSDBU, and a plethora of other changes that the Committee believed would improve the ability of each agency to ensure that small businesses receive the maximum practicable opportunity to compete for contracts.

Consequently, please provide the Committee with information documenting how the Department of Transportation intends to achieve compliance with the Small Business Act. Please address each subsection of Section 15(k) independently, and provide the date by which the Department of Transportation will be in compliance with the revised statute. This information should be provided no later than May 13, 2013. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Emily Murphy or Corey Cooke with the Committee at 202-225-5821.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sam Graves", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Sam Graves  
Chairman

cc: Dana Gresham, Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs, Department of  
Transportation  
Brandon T. Neal, Director of OSDBU, Department of Transportation