



March 24, 2015

The Honorable Steve Chabot
Chairman
Committee on Small Business
2371 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Chabot:

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) applauds your continued leadership and support of small businesses through your sponsorship of the Small Contractors Improve Competition Act of 2015 (SCICA).

Nearly 95 percent of U.S. architecture firms employ 50 or fewer people. As small entrepreneurs, they face numerous challenges in competing for federal design projects. Therefore, we commend you for your continued commitment to improving policies that will help the design and construction sector continue to recover from the Great Recession.

The SCICA would go a long way in making the federal playing field fair for these small businesses. By addressing a number of issues that impair the ability of small business to compete – including giving businesses the ability to challenge SBA size standard determinations and improving the reporting of small business goals – this legislation will better position small firms to compete for job-generating federal projects. The bill's provisions on reverse auctions and bundling also will help level the playing field so that more small firms can compete for federal work.

Small businesses like architecture firms are the core of the Main Street economy and are the nation's leading job creators. These firms must also be able to compete for projects at the federal level to generate much-needed economic relief for businesses of all sizes.

Thank you for giving small businesses the tools and support they need to compete for these vitally important projects. We strongly support the SCICA and look forward to working with you to advance it in Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AG', written in a cursive style.

Andrew L. Goldberg, Assoc. AIA
Managing Director, Government Relations & Advocacy