



Opening Statement of Chairman Sam Graves for Contracting Legislation Markup
Committee on Small Business
United States House of Representatives
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Given that federal government spends over half a trillion dollars each year through contracts, this is an incredibly important market for small businesses. Improving small business opportunities for federal contracts is a triple play – small businesses win more contracts, workers win as the small businesses create jobs, and taxpayers win because small business bring competition, innovation and lower prices to save the government money.

Recognizing that this is a crucial area for small businesses, over the past year the Committee has held ten hearings or subcommittee hearings on federal procurement issues. These have resulted in 8 bills introduced by the majority, and this package has been supported by over twenty trade associations, such as the:

- Associated General Contractors
- Minority Business Roundtable
- The Chamber of Commerce
- The Financial Services Roundtable
- National Association of Homebuilders
- Mason Contractors Assn of America
- Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors
- National Assn of Surety Bond Producers
- National Association of Small Disadvantaged Business
- U.S. Black Chamber
- National Women Business Owners Corporation
- Women Impacting Public Policy
- American Institutes of Architects

Additionally, our minority just introduced 3 contracting bills, bringing us to a total of 11 contracting bills which we are committed to marking up. Now that is a testament to bipartisan nature of the Small Business Committee and these issues.

Today, we are going to mark up the first 6 of these bills. While we will discuss each bill briefly before we mark it up, I want to emphasize how critical it is that we have bipartisan contracting reform that will improve opportunities for small businesses, and I look forward to working with all of you today to move these bills one step closer to becoming law.

I now recognize the Ranking Member, Ms. Velázquez for her opening remarks.