



March 24, 2015

The Honorable Steve Chabot
Chairman
Committee on Small Business
U.S. House of Representatives
2361 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Chabot:

The National Small Business Association (NSBA) is pleased to support the *Small Contractors Improve Competition Act* (H.R. 1481), which would make a series of improvements to small-business contracting policies to promote increased competition, a healthier industrial base, and a more cost-effective federal procurement process. Representing small-business owners across the nation, NSBA is the country's oldest small-business advocacy organization and greatly appreciates your leadership on such an important issue.

The federal government has had a long history of missing its small-business contracting goal of 23 percent. A report released last year by the SBA Office of Advocacy, stated that the small-business procurement rate was below 23 percent in all the top industries except construction. Increasing small-business procurement in the other top sectors, especially manufacturing where the small-business share is not quite 12 percent, is essential to improving the overall small-business contracting rate.

Small businesses provide high-quality goods and services to federal-contracting agencies and infuse the federal procurement system with much-needed competition. NSBA is extremely pleased to see that H.R. 1481 includes language to:

- Require senior executives at government agencies to assume responsibility for the agency's success in achieving each of the small-business prime contracting and subcontracting goals (H.R. 1386);
- Prohibit the use of reverse auctions for procurements of covered contracts (H.R. 1444);
- Require the implementation of a data quality improvement plan (HR 1410); and
- Allow for petitions for reconsideration of size standards for small business concerns (HR 1429).

Small-business participation in contracting is crucial to a healthy and competitive federal procurement process, and the implementation of these contracting reform proposals help promote economic growth, competition and job creation. NSBA is pleased to support H.R. 1481, the *Small Contractors Improve Competition Act*, and thanks you for your continued leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

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

Todd McCracken
President & CEO