

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

February 16, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

I write today to follow up on the vacancy for Chief Counsel for Advocacy at the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Office of Advocacy (Advocacy). On February 16, 2023 and on April 28, 2023, we wrote urging you to nominate a Chief Counsel for this critical position. To date, the Committee has not received a response, nor have you selected a nominee for the position. In the year since we made the initial request to nominate someone, small businesses have continued to deal with an unprecedented onslaught of regulations. Your Administration has added nearly 280 million hours of paperwork and \$447 billion in regulatory costs to American businesses.<sup>1</sup>

The Chief Counsel's role is to direct the office that supports the development of American small businesses.<sup>2</sup> As stated in our two previous letters, the position of Chief Counsel of Advocacy has been vacant for an extended time—since the departure of Darryl L. DePriest in January 2017.<sup>3</sup> Advocacy is an independent voice for small business within the federal government that not only monitors and ensures agencies are complying with the Regulatory Reflexibility Act, but also helps policy makers better understand issues confronting small business owners. It is well past time you do right by the Main Street America and nominate a Chief Counsel immediately.

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<sup>1</sup> Linda McMahon, *The Biden Administration's Anti-Worker Economy*, AM. FIRST POLICY INST. (Jan. 29, 2024).

<sup>2</sup> CONG. RESEARCH SERV., R43625, SBA OFFICE OF ADVOCACY: OVERVIEW, HISTORY, AND CURRENT ISSUES, 17 (Mar. 30, 2022).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 16.

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In God We Trust,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "S" at the end.

Roger Williams  
Chairman  
Committee on Small Business

cc: The Honorable Nydia M. Velasquez, Ranking Member  
Committee on Small Business