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Record Type: Record

To: Jennifer Wood Inforeg/OMB/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Comments Regarding Federal Regulations Including Federal Regulations Affecting Small Business

Hello.

I am the President of a woman owned business in Maryland. I just came back from the Women Entrepreneurship in the 21st Century Conference where President Bush suggested that we email you if we come across any barriers created by the government to our doing business.

Well, I have one. I have been in business for over 20 years. Six years ago, we were certified as an MBE with the Maryland Department of Transportation. This month, I received a letter stating that the FEDERAL DBE and the State MBE programs now have established a personal Net worth threshold for each minority applying for certification or re-certification.

This poses a potential problem for all women who have been personally successful and have provided excellent services. In addition, since I am the president of a corporation, I do not see what my personal net worth has to do with my ability to perform marketing services. I am not applying for re-certification as a disadvantaged business where I could understand the requirement. Who will benefit from removing the most successful women from the pool of providers? Certainly not the organizations looking for mature companies to do the best jobs!

This new law will greatly affect my business and my ability to stay in business. I have written to my senator and delegates about this and they in turn, wrote to the department of transportation in Maryland questioning the very law that they voted in!

This is a barrier that has been put up for women businesses. As a white woman, there are no other certifications within the government that I qualify for, and now this one may be stripped away too. Business has been difficult enough--but now this is potentially disastrous.

I am attaching a reference letter that I received from the American Red Cross with whom we contracted with under this program. As you can see, without this certification, they would never have found us.

Dear Ms. Tanenbaum:

On behalf of the American Red Cross, I would like to thank you and the superb staff of Jill Tanenbaum Graphic Design, especially Sue Sprinkle, for such excellent work that was recently completed on two major projects: designing lesson plans and activity sheets for Safety Watchers curriculum for children in grades K-5, and Facing Fear: Helping Young People Deal With Terrorism and Tragic Events for children in grades K-12.

The work on design and production of Safety Watchers was well within the production schedule and more than met our expectations as we moved from summer to fall. Then, the attacks on our country happened on September 11. We came to your company soon thereafter, because you had done such a good job so far with Safety Watchers, to ask that you take on a new, very large task, of working with us to design the Facing Fear curriculum in an exceptionally compressed production time. Facing Fear was far larger than Safety Watchers - this newly written curriculum had 48 lesson plans and 117 multipage activity sheets, and was provided to your company in a rougher state than we would have liked. Sue Sprinkle just rolled with the punches, and did a wonderful job of the graphic design work to produce an excellent product.

All of America was watching what the American Red Cross was doing after September 11, and our ability to put Facing Fear in their hands demonstrated that we can respond quickly, efficiently, and professionally to help children and their families deal with their emotions, concerns, and future preparations. Our excellent paid and volunteer writing and editorial team, as well as Jill Tanenbaum Graphic Design, made that possible. We couldn't have done it without you!

Even in the midst of getting Facing Fear done as quickly as you did, you didn't forget that we had a contractual deadline to get Safety Watchers done by the end of the calendar year, or we faced losing a grant that funded its development in the first place. Your company got that done for us, too, before the deadline, on top of everything else.

We have enjoyed working with your company. Please extend our deepest and **most** sincere thanks to everyone who worked on our projects. We certainly will consider using your services again as funding may become available for future materials we want to develop.

Sincerely,

Rocky Lopes, Ph.D.
Community Disaster Education
Disaster Services

Preparedness

Whatever bureaucratic pains you went through to get listed by the State of Maryland Dept. of Transportation as a minority small business enterprise paid off -- or we might never have found you. **So** thank your patience with bureaucracy!

With warmest best wishes,

Rocky Lopes

I thank you for any help you can offer concerning this issue.

Sincerely,

Jill Tanenbaum

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Jill Tanenbaum

President and Creative Director

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