

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

January 30, 2008

Honorable Thomas Sullivan  
Chief Counsel  
Office of Advocacy  
US Small Business Administration  
409 Third Street, S.W., 7th Floor  
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

We are writing to request that the Office of Advocacy assist us in our efforts to help America's veterans in the area of small business development.

Veterans have fought to protect this nation and have earned the right to pursue the American dream of owning and operating a small business. There are currently 25 million veterans in America, including over 1.3 million who have left military service since 2001. As the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan continue, it will become increasingly critical that returning service members are able to transition seamlessly back into civilian life, of which employment is an important component.

In light of that, we request that your office conduct a study to investigate the various federal tax and regulatory barriers that hinder veterans in their efforts to become entrepreneurs and to sustain their businesses. Specifically, the report should describe:

- (1) The barriers in place arising from federal regulations for veterans who wish to become entrepreneurs;
- (2) The barriers in place arising from the tax code for veterans who wish to become entrepreneurs; and
- (3) Any recommendations for how to best eliminate those barriers to better assist current or prospective veteran small business owners.

We request that you provide this report within 18 months to Congress. In order to ensure that this report is completed in a timely fashion, the contract award for the research should be finalized no later than September 30, 2008. It is also the intent to provide your office flexibility as to the manner it crafts the report. For example, it would be appropriate to complete this study by including this examination as part of a relevant study that may already be in progress or alternately, appending a previously completed

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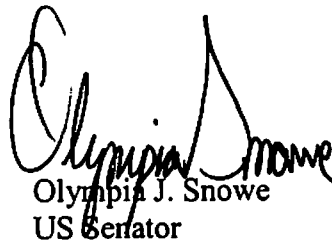
study to include these findings. The goal is to identify the challenges facing veterans, while also ensuring that your office can do so in a cost-effective way.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

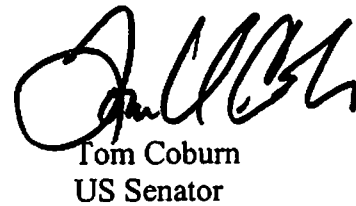
Sincerely,



John F. Kerry  
US Senator



Olympia J. Snowe  
US Senator



Tom Coburn  
US Senator



Nydia M. Velázquez  
US Representative



Steve Chabot  
US Representative