



News Release

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National Women's Business Council Endorses Efforts To Reduce Contract Bundling

Washington, DC – The National Women's Business Council, a bi-partisan Federal advisory board created to provide advice and policy recommendations on issues related to women's entrepreneurship, today applauded the release of a new report and initiative focused on the issue of Federal contract bundling. The report, "Contract Bundling: A Report to the President on Increasing Federal Contracting Opportunities for Small Business," was prepared by the Office of Management and Budget's Office of Federal Procurement Policy.

"Ensuring access to markets is a key challenge for the country's 9.1 million women business owners," said Marilyn Carlson Nelson, Chairman and CEO of Carlson Companies and Chair of the National Women's Business Council. "The trend toward bundling of Federal spending has had a negative impact on women-owned businesses, indeed on all small firms. We strongly support the President's efforts to increase accountability in Federal agency procurement offices, ensure timely and accurate reporting of spending, and institute programs to encourage joint ventures and subcontracting compliance. We would especially encourage the expansion of mentor-protégée programs."

The National Women's Business Council has long been involved in studying the issue of access to the Federal marketplace for women in business and making recommendations for policy action. A recent Council research study conducted among women business owners involved in Federal procurement found bundling to be the most significant negative trend in contracting, along with the reduction in the number of procurement officers.¹ This study also found mentor-protégée programs to be one of the most highly rated, yet least utilized initiatives to encourage women business owners to become involved in Federal procurement. Fully 88% of women business owners who had availed themselves of such a program found them to be helpful.

(continued)

¹ See [Women-Owned Firms in Federal Procurement: A National Survey](#), (July 2000), prepared for NWBC by the National Foundation for Women Business Owners (now Center for Women's Business Research).

The Council looks forward to working with the President, the Office of Federal Procurement Policy, and Federal agency leaders to help implement these important initiatives. The Council expects that these initiatives will significantly expand opportunities for women business owners who desire to do business with the Federal government.

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The National Women's Business Council is a bi-partisan Federal government council created to serve as an independent source of advice and counsel to the President, Congress, and the U.S. Small Business Administration on economic issues of importance to women business owners. Members of the Council are prominent women business owners and leaders of women's business organizations. For more information about the Council, its mission and activities, contact: National Women's Business Council, 409 3rd Street, SW, Suite 210, Washington, DC 20024; phone: 202-205-3850; fax: 202-205-6825, e-mail: nwbc@sba.gov.