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WASHINGTON, DC 20515

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March 16, 2009

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On December 29, 2008, I sent a letter to you, Speaker Pelosi and Leader Boehner asking that the stimulus "focus a significant effort on investments to promote economic recovery for those who protect our freedom and way of life – America's veterans."

Included in the \$2.25 billion to improve several veterans' programs, I suggested \$1 billion to reauthorize the VA's small business loan program that expired in 1986. Unfortunately, that funding was not included in the stimulus bill. I have introduced H.R. 294, The Veteran-Owned Small Business Promotion Act of 2009, a bipartisan bill to meet that goal and I would welcome your support of my bill.

Small business is the life blood of the American economy and has taken a severe blow during the recent downturn. The Association of Small Business Development Centers estimates that the loss of jobs in the small business sector since November has exceeded the layoffs in the auto industry.

Clearly, invigorating small business is of primary importance to the economy. I urge you to include veteran-owned small businesses as a focus of any small business initiative you may propose by including at least \$1 billion to reauthorize the VA's small business loan guaranty program.

I look forward to working with you to revitalize America's veteran-owned small businesses.

Sincerely,



Steve Buyer
Ranking Republican Member