

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

May 20, 2009

Governor Bobby Jindal
PO Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

Dear Governor Jindal,

We are writing to request your assistance in ensuring that small businesses obtain a significant portion of state contracts supported by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding. America's small businesses are the beating pulse of our nation. They have created 93 percent of all new jobs over the last 15 years and generate 13 times more patents per employee than large firms. Yet, since November, 80 percent of the jobs lost have come from small firms. As our nation digs out of the economic recession, we need our innovators and job creators more than ever.

Based on the most recent SBA data, small business contractors received more than \$83 billion in Federal prime contracts in Fiscal Year 2007 and were responsible for creating or retaining roughly 595,000 jobs. To build upon this foundation, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has several new programs to help level the playing field for small firms competing for contracts. Small businesses have a greater opportunity to compete for contracts of up to \$5 million, and in some cases \$10 million, thanks to a recent change that increased the ceiling for the SBA's Guaranteed Surety Bond program. This essential program offers small businesses greater access to the contracting arena and provides emerging start-ups with a low-risk opportunity to grow their businesses.

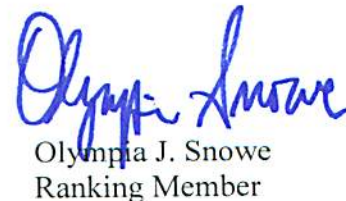
Considering entrepreneurs' success in bringing innovative ideas to the forefront and their ability to pay personal attention to each project, small businesses are a critical asset to your state's economy. We strongly urge you to make your state's small businesses top priorities when deciding who will be awarded contracting opportunities created by Recovery Act funds.

Please do not hesitate to contact us or our staffs with any further questions.

Sincerely,



Mary L. Landrieu
Chair



Olympia J. Snowe
Ranking Member