



February 6, 2008

The Honorable Olympia J. Snowe
Ranking Member
Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Snowe,

We are writing to express our support for the "Small Business Women's Procurement Program Improvement Act". Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP) is a bipartisan public policy organization representing well over a half million women and minorities in business nationwide, including 44 associations that partner with us.

WIPP members have waited seven years for the implementation of the Women's Procurement Program, as embodied in P.L. 106-554. In 2007, the federal government had yet to meet its 5% goal set by Congress and in fact, women owned businesses are only awarded 3.4% of all federal procurement contracts. This is in sharp contrast with the growth of women-owned businesses which are growing at twice the rate of all businesses totaling 10.4 million. Because the federal government has not met its woman-owned goal and its interpretation of the law led to an unacceptable narrowly defined program, WIPP believes the original law should be rewritten.

WIPP supports provisions in the "Small Business Women's Procurement Program Improvement Act", which will strengthen the Women's Procurement Program by expanding the industries underrepresented to all industry codes. We believe that the Congressional finding of underrepresentation and the provision that does not require a finding of past gender discrimination are necessary to establish a program that will work. Further, we support conforming the Women's Procurement Program to the 8(a) program with respect to sole sourcing and elimination of the award caps contained in the original law.

Thank you for your unwavering support as we work together to establish legislation that enables the federal government to meet its woman-owned contracting goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Kasoff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara Kasoff
President