



May 26, 2010

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand,

We are writing to express our thanks to you and Senator Snowe for introducing S. 3399, the Fairness in Women-Owned Small Business Contracting Act of 2010. Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPPP) is a national, bipartisan organization that represents forty-nine national organizations and over half a million women and minority business owners.

The bill addresses federal contracting issues that are critical to the success of the women's procurement program, proposed by the Small Business Administration (SBA). The program, as currently drafted, does not allow for a sole source award to a woman business owner participating in the program and by statute, limits the dollar amount of awards under the program to \$5 million for manufacturing and \$3 million for goods and services. These two limitations will hamper a program that has the potential of greatly boosting the federal government's contracting with women owned firms. Sole sourcing is an important tool in other socioeconomic programs and we believe that the women's program should be put on equal footing with other contracting programs under the Small Business Act.

We have heard from women business owners nationwide that the Congress should lift the cap of \$3 million and \$5 million per award which will be imposed on the program because the dollar limits are simply too low to be effective. Given the increasing size of government contracts, lifting these contracting limits will assist women-owned small businesses (WOSBs) to compete for federal contracting dollars. WOSBs have proven that they can successfully perform contracts that are well above the contracting threshold. The bill addresses this issue by simply lifting the dollar restrictions.

In WIPPP's comments submitted to the SBA on the proposed women's procurement program, we made special note regarding the age of the data used to calculate "underrepresentation" and a timeline for future updates. We are pleased to see that a definitive timeline will be established through this legislation with respect to updating the data used to determine eligibility for the program.

WIPP stands ready to work with you to ensure passage of this legislation. We greatly appreciate your longstanding efforts to increase women business owners' ability to win federal contracts. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact WIPP's government affairs representative, Ann Sullivan, at (202) 626-8528.

Sincerely,

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

Barbara Kasoff, President and CEO  
Women Impacting Public Policy