



June 8, 2010

The Honorable Dennis Moore
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Moore,

We are writing to ask for your co-sponsorship on H.R. 3729. This bill will ensure that small businesses that participate in the 8(a), service-disabled veterans, women-owned, and HUBZone programs all have fair and equal access to federal contracting opportunities. Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP) represents forty-nine organizations and over half a million members nationwide, many of whom are small business government contractors.

The recent *Mission Critical* Court decision ruled that the HUBZone program has priority over the 8(a) program when it comes to federal procurement set-asides. [Mission Critical Solutions v. United States, No. 09-864C (Fed. Cl. Feb. 26, 2010)]. This decision mandates contracting officers to give preference to HUBZone firms on any procurement opportunity whenever two or more HUBZone firms are available to perform the contract at a fair price. While we are dismayed at the result of the Court's ruling, the Court's ruling is logical based in the rather clear statutory language.

This ruling overturned an OMB directive which allowed federal contracting officers to choose among the SBA's small business programs in order to meet their small business procurement goals. With the women's procurement program nearing implementation, it is crucial that parity be restored to the small business programs. WIPP has fought long and hard for the creation of a women's procurement program, and does not want to see this program, or any other SBA program, treated as inferior to the HUBZone program.

We urge the House to support H.R. 3729. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact WIPP's Government Relations, Ann Sullivan, at (202) 626-8528. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Barbara Kasoff, President and CEO
Women Impacting Public Policy