



June 8, 2010

The Honorable John F. Kerry
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kerry,

We are writing to ask for your co-sponsorship on S. 3190, the Small Business Programs Parity Act of 2010. This bill will ensure that small businesses participating 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 that contracting officers 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 given the 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 Senate to support S. 3190. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact WIPP's Government Relations, Ann Sullivan, at (202) 626-8528. Thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Barbara Kasoff, President and CEO
Women Impacting Public Policy