



April 3, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary of Energy
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Chu,

We are writing to express our concern about the opportunities that will be available to small businesses through the stimulus funding. Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP) is a bipartisan organization representing over half a million women and minority business owners nationwide, including forty-six small business associations.

Many of our coalition partners and individual members are government contractors. Since the Department of Energy is structured very differently from other agencies, we worry that the additional stimulus money will be handed over to the prime contractors that run the DOE's facilities and small businesses will not receive any meaningful work as a result of the additional DOE funding. Specifically, we are concerned about reports that small businesses will be relegated to staff augmentation subcontracts. Small businesses are capable of performing far more sophisticated contract activities.

Since the stimulus package did not change FAR requirements, we are interested in discussing the role of small business and its active participation in the stimulus work with you. Any communications from your office to the small business community with respect to this concern would be appreciated. We respectfully ask your assistance in making sure small businesses are not left out of the stimulus plans at DOE. Any assurances you can give to this community would be welcomed. 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 black ink that reads 'Barbara Kasoff'.

Barbara Kasoff
President

cc: The Honorable Mary Landrieu, Chair, Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
The Honorable Olympia Snowe, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship