



March 1, 2012

Senator Olympia J. Snowe
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Snowe:

On behalf of the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO), I am writing to express our support for the Fairness in Women-Owned Small Business Contracting Act.

As you know, women-owned businesses currently represent the fastest growing segment of the economy yet they are missing out on billions in dollars of federal contracts, which are tied closely to businesses expansion and job growth. I hear this repeatedly in conversations with NAWBO members.

Your proposed legislation to eliminate the \$5 million cap on women contracting programs and to allow for sole sourcing to women-owned businesses under similar conditions as sole source contracts awarded historically to underutilized businesses zone (HUBZone) small businesses will provide much-needed parity for women-owned businesses in the world of government contracting.

By also requiring a mandatory five year review of all industries in which women are underrepresented to determine whether more industries should be included addresses the issue of women-owned businesses' underrepresentation in government procurement both now and moving forward.

NAWBO is proud to support this legislation. We praise you for your persistence and the leadership you have demonstrated in continuing to address this costly oversight and look forward to working with you to advance this much-needed legislation in Congress.

Sincerely,

Diane L Tomb
President & CEO