

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, strongly urges you to act this year to reauthorize the Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) Program. Funding from the SBIR program serves as an important avenue by which agencies harness the creativity and ingenuity of small businesses to meet specific research and development needs of the federal government while providing a valuable source for technology transfer into the private sector.

Even though this important program has a proven track record of success, prior to its six-year extension in 2011 the full potential of the program was held hostage by fourteen short-term lifelines. Enacting a SBIR program authorization into law this year that provides for long-term certainty and increases the share devoted to small businesses would unleash the innovative talents of entrepreneurs to help create jobs and foster economic growth.

Both the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee and House Small Business Committee have acted to unanimously pass their respective versions out of Committee. The Chamber asks that you continue to capitalize on this year's bipartisan effort by attaching it to a vehicle, such as the National Defense Authorization Act, to avoid subjecting the program to the future uncertainties of a new Congress that will be focused on the major priorities of the next administration.

Ninety-six percent of the Chamber's members are small businesses with fewer than one hundred employees. On behalf of these smaller members, the Chamber asks that you act expeditiously to reauthorize the SBIR program.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten