

OLYMPIA J. SNOWE, MAINE, CHAIR
JOHN F. KERRY, MASSACHUSETTS, RANKING MEMBER

CHRISTOPHER S. BOND, MISSOURI
CONRAD BURNS, MONTANA
ROBERT F. BENNETT, UTAH
MICHAEL ENZI, WYOMING
PETER G. FITZGERALD, ILLINOIS
MIKE CRAPO, IDAHO
GEORGE ALLEN, VIRGINIA
JOHN ENSIGN, NEVADA
NORM COLEMAN, MINNESOTA

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN
TOM HARKIN, IOWA
JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN, CONNECTICUT
MARY LANDRIEU, LOUISIANA
JOHN EDWARDS, NORTH CAROLINA
MARIA CANTWELL, WASHINGTON
EVAN BAYH, INDIANA
MARK PRYOR, ARKANSAS

MARK E. WARREN, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL
PATRICIA R. FORBES, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

March 18, 2003

The Honorable Tom Davis
Chairman
House Government Reform Committee
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Tom:

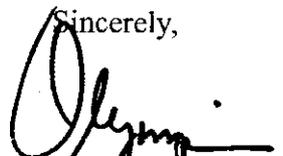
As Chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I would like to offer my congratulations on your appointment as Chairman of the House Government Reform Committee. I understand that a top priority of your committee is Federal procurement and that you intend to reintroduce the Services Acquisition Reform Act to ensure the government can quickly and efficiently purchase goods and services.

As you know, the President recently announced his commitment "to examine the Federal government's contracting policies to make sure that they encourage competition." As an integral part of the Federal government's vendor base, small businesses increase competition, raising the quality and lowering the price of goods and services. Therefore, they clearly deserve every possible fair chance to compete for the business of the Nation's largest consumer – the Federal government.

One of my top priorities as the new Chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is to continue with the Committee's efforts to ensure that the Federal procurement process is both open and fair for small business. Today, I held a hearing that examined contract bundling and discussed proposed solutions that best utilize Federal contract dollars but also ensure the ability of small businesses to compete for those dollars. I intend to work towards legislation that will reflect what I heard today and that will assure the Administration's ability to open the procurement process for small business.

I look forward to working with you to develop meaningful procurement reform that ensures participation by our Nation's small businesses. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff call Nancyellen Gentile at (202) 224-

Sincerely,


Olympia J. Snowe
Chair

*Looking forward to
working with you - !*