

U.S. BLACK CHAMBER, INC.

THE NATIONAL VOICE OF BLACK BUSINESS

February 29, 2012

The Honorable Olympia J. Snowe Ranking Member Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Snowe,

On behalf of the U.S. Black Chamber, Inc. (USBC) and the 1.9 million small Black-owned businesses, including nearly 912,000 Black female-owned firms that we represent, we are writing to express our support for the Fairness in Women-Owned Small Business Contracting Act of 2012.

USBC believes that the Fairness in Women-Owned Small Business Contracting Act would contribute to women's business growth, while providing women-owned small business contractors with the necessary tools to compete fairly in the federal procurement arena. Removing the dollar amount restriction on contracts that women-owned small businesses can compete for in the Women Owned Small Business (WOSB) Procurement Program and enabling them to receive sole source contracts will allow WOSBs to compete on a level playing field with other federal small business procurement programs.

USBC focuses on Five Pillars of Service: Advocacy, Access to Capital, Contracting, Entrepreneur Training, and Chamber Development for small, minority, women-owned businesses. Our mission is to remove barriers to promote economic empowerment. We believe the Fairness in Women-Owned Small Business Contracting Act will increase women entrepreneurs' participation in federal contracting and assist the government in meeting its small business and WOSB procurement goals. The resulting business growth will surely contribute to our nation's economic growth and recovery.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 552-2954 or at <u>ron@usblackchamber.org</u> if you have any questions.

In the Spirit of Success,

Ron Busby Sr. President U.S. Black Chamber, Inc.