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September 18, 2013

Ms. Jeanne Hulit
Acting Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street SW
Washington D.C. 20416

Re: Request to Re-Open the Comment Period for the Commercialization Benchmark

Dear Acting Administrator Hulit:

I am writing to thank you and your staff for working on my request to re-open the comment period for the Commercialization Benchmark for the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs that closed on Monday, September 9th and is set to go into effect on October 7, 2013.

During the final negotiations of the comprehensive SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act (P.L. 112-81), Congress included a requirement of notice and comment so that the public would have a meaningful amount of time to analyze and comment on any system, standard or approval benchmarks proposed to evaluate the commercialization of SBIR and STTR firms before the benchmarks would go into effect. The Senate intended for the comment period to be at least 60 days. I appreciate that the Notice for the Commercialization Benchmark complies with the law, but would emphasize that 60 days is a minimum.

Members of Congress and the small business community have asked for more time to understand the proposed benchmark and the chance to suggest changes so that the benchmark fairly evaluates SBIR and STTR firms and doesn't cause successful small businesses to be banned from participating in the programs for a one-year period. I look forward to a formal announcement about the additional comment period and a new effective date for the benchmark.

Again, thank you for your help on this important matter. With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,



Mary L. Landrieu