



October 4, 2010

The Honorable Niki Tsongas
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Tsongas:

On behalf of the members of the National Small Business Association, I would like to thank you for your important leadership in securing the recent extension of the authorization of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs.

Reaching 150,000 small-business owners across the nation, NSBA is the country's oldest small-business advocacy organization and a longtime supporter of the SBIR program.

As you know, SBIR is the nation's largest source of early-stage research and development funding. Providing more than 50,000 patents since its inception, SBIR has successfully harnessed the proven innovative power of small, technology-based businesses to meet the nation's technology needs. On average, SBIR generates seven new patents per day—which is far more than all U.S. universities combined, at less than one-twelfth their level of federal research and development funding.

Yet, without your valiant efforts to secure the recent extension, it is entirely possible that SBIR and STTR would have been allowed to lapse. Given the state of the economy and the importance of small, innovative firms in job creation, such a lapse would have been profoundly troubling.

In a short period, you—and your exemplary staff—have proven yourselves stalwart small-business advocates and robust defenders of the small-business focus of the SBIR and STTR programs.

NSBA is relieved that the SBIR and STTR programs have been extended until Jan. 31, 2011 and thanks you for your indispensable and politically-courageous efforts to help achieve this goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd McCracken". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Todd O. McCracken
President