

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 19, 2012

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Defense Appropriations Subcommittee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Vice Chairman
Defense Appropriations Subcommittee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman and Senator Cochran:

Thank you for your continued, bipartisan support of the Procurement Technical Assistance Program (PTAP), which is funded and administered by the Defense Logistics Agency's (DLA) Office of Small Business Programs. Given the challenges our nation's small businesses continue to face during this economic downturn, and the program's demonstrated success in providing assistance to small businesses, we respectfully write to request your support of \$35,500,000 in the Fiscal Year 2013 Defense Appropriations bill. This \$9 million increase to the President's budget request equals the same amount of funding the Senate added to the program in FY2012.

Over ninety regional Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTACs), with more than 250 local offices in all 50 states, form a nationwide network of dedicated procurement professionals who provide critical assistance to small businesses seeking to participate in defense and other government procurement contracts. Small businesses use the PTACs to obtain information and training on new acquisitions procedures, specialized solicitations, and federal contracting information. PTACs help generate new suppliers for the Defense Department, resulting in greater competition, higher quality goods and services at lower cost, more prudent expenditure of taxpayer dollars, and a stronger industrial base.

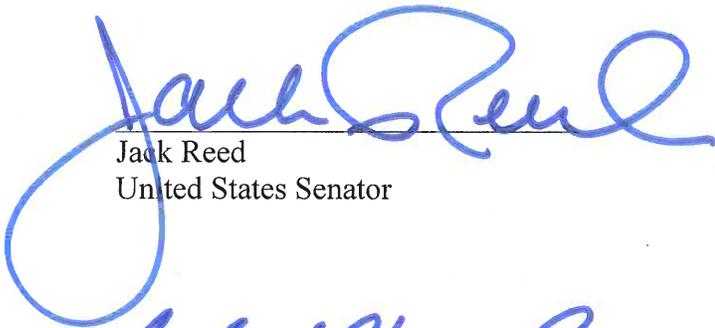
The PTAP is one of the most successful federal programs to assist small businesses. Initial inquiries from small businesses and attendance at PTAC events have increased substantially. In 2010, PTACs held over 180,000 counseling sessions for almost 73,000 clients – resulting in over 114,000 contracts awarded worth \$17.42 billion and creating and retaining 348,000 jobs.

The PTAP is authorized under 10 USC 2412 Chapter 142 and has been in the President's budget since FY1999. Congress has consistently recognized the importance of the PTAP on a bipartisan basis. Even with the funding increases from Congress, DLA has been forced to deny requested funds to PTACs who have identified funding needs and secured their required non-federal matching funds.

Chairman Inouye and Ranking Member Cochran
Procurement Technical Assistance Program

Given the value of the PTAP to our nation's small businesses and the goods and services they provide to the warfighter, we thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Susan Collins
United States Senator



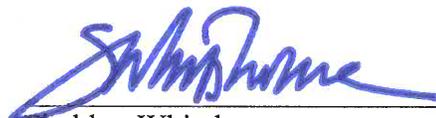
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



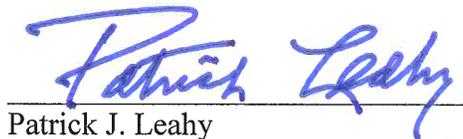
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



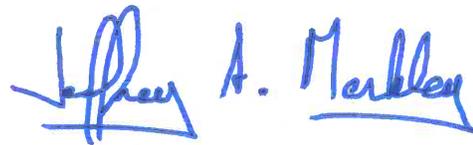
Joseph I. Lieberman
United States Senator



Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senator



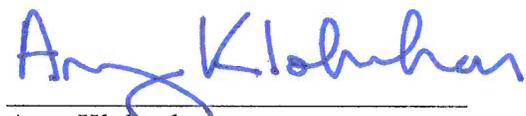
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Jeff Merkley
United States Senator

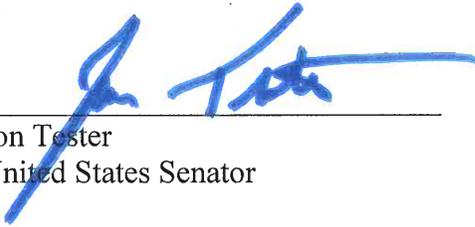


Al Franken
United States Senator

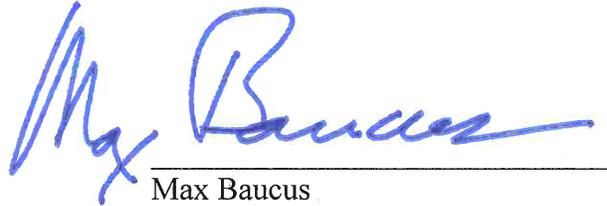


Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Chairman Inouye and Ranking Member Cochran
Procurement Technical Assistance Program



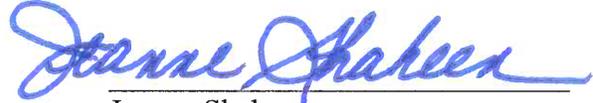
Jon Tester
United States Senator



Max Baucus
United States Senator



Tim Johnson
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senator