

National Veteran Small Business Coalition



“One Cause, One Voice”

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July 22, 2019

The Honorable Marco Rubio, Chairman
The Honorable Benjamin Cardin, Ranking Member
United States Senate
Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship
428A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rubio and Ranking Member Cardin:

On behalf of The National Veteran Small Business Coalition (NVSBC), I write to express our support for Amendment MIR19898 to the Chairman's Mark of the Small Business Reauthorization Act.

This amendment would exempt any acquisition for a contract awarded under the procedures of Small Business Act sections 8(a), 8(m), 15(a), 15(j), 31, or 36 from the procedural requirements and guidance regarding category management, best in class solutions, or successor strategies for contract consolidation. It would also largely exempt these contracts from being measured for any agency goals pertaining to category management, best in class solutions, common contract solutions, or successor strategies for contract consolidation. Lastly, this amendment would protect contracts awarded under the above-mentioned small business programs from being removed and placed in category management, best in class solutions, or successor strategies for contract consolidation.

Category Management, as implemented by OMB and OFPP, has been detrimental to small businesses and the overall nation's industrial supply chain. One Bloomberg study showed the number of small businesses providing services and products directly to the federal government has been reduced drastically as a result of category management and the required use of best in class vehicles. This amendment, although not entirely eliminating category management, at least protects the federal small business set-aside programs for some of the most detrimental impacts of its implementation.

Our organization represents almost five hundred Veteran Owned and Service Disabled Owned Small Businesses, and we adamantly support this amendment, which would help fulfill Congress' stated intent under 15 U.S.C. § 644(e)(1), which calls for federal agencies to facilitate the maximum participation of small business concerns as prime contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers. Contracting with small businesses helps to

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ensure a strong business supply chain, which is imperative to securing a healthy economy and a strong industrial base. As such, we respectfully urge the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship to adopt the aforementioned amendment, and for Congress to pass the amended Small Business Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Denniston".

Scott Denniston
Executive Director
National Veteran Small Business Coalition (NVSBC)