

SCORECARD

Special Report on the 109th Congress House of Representatives: Lost Opportunities to Support U.S. Small Business

If “small businesses are the engine for economic growth in America,”
why is Congress missing so many opportunities to
support the role of small business
in the American economy?



**Prepared by the
U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce**

October 2006

Introduction

This scorecard report was produced by the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce. We represent the over ten million women business owners of America. Through our 600,000 members, we work to position small businesses for growth and opportunity.

We believe it is important to provide the American people with the knowledge of what "could have been" if only Congress had supported legislation aimed at strengthening our small business community of innovators.

The U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce offers this special report on lost opportunities in conjunction with the following organizations:

National Procurement Council (www.nationalprocurementcouncil.org)

American Small Business League (www.asbl.com)

Latino American Management Association (www.lamausa.com)

Small Business Majority (www.smallbusinessmajority.org)

Business Professional Women/USA (www.bpwusa.org)

October 19, 2006

To: Congressional Leaders

From: Leaders of the Small Business Community

As leaders of the American small business community, we call upon Congress to step up and support small business - the engine of our economic growth - by taking actions that will increase our access to capital, contracts, healthcare, technology and the global marketplace. If we are to grow our competitiveness, we need your support.

During the 109th Congress, our congressional leaders:

- **Failed** to provide a strong budget for the U.S. Small Business Administration. Between 2001 and 2007, the SBA budget has decreased 41%.
- **Failed** to restore much needed funding to support SBA small business lending programs.
- **Failed** to respond effectively to Gulf Region small businesses devastated by Hurricane Katrina.
- **Failed** to assure that "small business" contracts were truly awarded to small businesses.
- **Failed** to support the much needed "Small Business Bill of Rights."
- **Failed** to hold the SBA accountable for its failure (after more than five years) to implement the Women's Federal Procurement Program.
- **Failed** to modernize and update a number of SBA's programs through providing a comprehensive SBA Reauthorization.

We call upon our leaders to take our small businesses seriously. We represent the very fabric of American communities and provide strength to America through innovation, flexibility, and commitment to our communities.

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House of Representatives Scorecard of Lost Opportunities in the 109th Congress

VOTING KEY:

✓ = Member voted for legislation.
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H.AMDT.1103 to H.R.5672
 H.AMDT.747 to H.R.4939
 H.AMDT.748 to H.R.4939
 H.AMDT.511 to H.R.4939
 H.AMDT.437 to H.R.3070
 H.AMDT.333 to H.R.3058
 H.AMDT.255 to H.R.2863
 H.RES.22
 H.AMDT.13 to H.R.27

Representative	State	District	Party	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	Score
Abercrombie, Neil	HI	1st	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Ackerman, Gary L.	NY	5th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Aderholt, Robert B.	AL	4th	R										0%
Akin, W. Todd	MO	2nd	R										0%
Alexander, Rodney	LA	5th	R										0%
Allen, Thomas H.	ME	1st	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Andrews, Robert E.	NJ	1st	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Baca, Joe	CA	43rd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Bachus, Spencer	AL	6th	R										0%
Baird, Brian	WA	3rd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Baker, Richard H.	LA	6th	R										0%
Baldwin, Tammy	WI	2nd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Barrett, J. Gresham	SC	3rd	R										0%
Barrow, John	GA	12th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Bartlett, Roscoe G.	MD	6th	R			✓							11%
Barton, Joe	TX	6th	R										0%
Bass, Charles F.	NH	2nd	R										0%
Bean, Melissa L.	IL	8th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Beauprez, Bob	CO	7th	R										22%
Becerra, Xavier	CA	31st	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Berkley, Shelley	NV	1st	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Berman, Howard L.	CA	28th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Berry, Marion	AR	1st	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Biggert, Judy	IL	13th	R										0%
Bilbray, Brian P.	CA	50th	R		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%
Bilirakis, Michael	FL	9th	R					✓					11%
Bishop, Rob	UT	1st	R										0%
Bishop, Sanford D. Jr.	GA	2nd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Bishop, Timothy H.	NY	1st	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Blackburn, Marsha	TN	7th	R										0%

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Blumenauer, Earl	OR	3rd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Blunt, Roy	MO	7th	R										0%
Boehlert, Sherwood	NY	24th	R	✓									11%
Boehner, John A.	OH	8th	R										0%
Bonilla, Henry	TX	23rd	R										0%
Bonner, Jo	AL	1st	R										0%
Bono, Mary	CA	45th	R										0%
Boozman, John	AR	3rd	R										0%
Boren, Dan	OK	2nd	D	✓				✓	✓	✓		✓	56%
Boswell, Leonard L.	IA	3rd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	89%
Boucher, Rick	VA	9th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	89%
Boustany, Charles W. Jr.	LA	7th	R				✓						11%
Boyd, Allen	FL	2nd	D	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	78%
Bradley, Jeb	NH	1st	R							✓			11%
Brady, Kevin	TX	8th	R		✓								11%
Brady, Robert A.	PA	1st	D		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Brown, Corrine	FL	3rd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	78%
Brown, Henry E. Jr.	SC	1st	R										0%
Brown, Sherrod	OH	13th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Brown-Waite, Ginny	FL	5th	R							✓		✓	22%
Burgess, Michael C.	TX	26th	R										0%
Burton, Dan	IN	5th	R										0%
Butterfield, G. K.	NC	1st	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Buyer, Steve	IN	4th	R										0%
Calvert, Ken	CA	44th	R										0%
Camp, Dave	MI	4th	R										0%
Campbell, John	CA	48th	R				x	x	x	x	x	x	0%
Cannon, Chris	UT	3rd	R										0%
Cantor, Eric	VA	7th	R										0%
Capito, Shelley Moore	WV	2nd	R							✓			11%
Capps, Lois	CA	23rd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Capuano, Michael E.	MA	8th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Cardin, Benjamin L.	MD	3rd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Cardoza, Dennis A.	CA	18th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Carnahan, Russ	MO	3rd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Carson, Julia	IN	7th	D		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		78%
Carter, John R.	TX	31st	R										0%
Case, Ed	HI	2nd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	89%

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Representative	State	District	Party	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	Score
Castle, Michael N.	DE	AL	R										0%
Chabot, Steve	OH	1st	R										0%
Chandler, Ben	KY	6th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Chocola, Chris	IN	2nd	R										0%
Clay, Wm. Lacy	MO	1st	D	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Cleaver, Emanuel	MO	5th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		89%
Clyburn, James E.	SC	6th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Coble, Howard	NC	6th	R					✓					11%
Cole, Tom	OK	4th	R							✓			11%
Conaway, K. Michael	TX	11th	R							✓			11%
Conyers, John Jr.	MI	14th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	78%
Cooper, Jim	TN	5th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Costa, Jim	CA	20th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	78%
Costello, Jerry F.	IL	12th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Cramer, Robert E. (Bud) Jr.	AL	5th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Crenshaw, Ander	FL	4th	R										0%
Crowley, Joseph	NY	7th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Cubin, Barbara	WY	AL	R							✓			11%
Cuellar, Henry	TX	28th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Culberson, John	TX	7th	R										0%
Cummings, Elijah E.	MD	7th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Davis, Artur	AL	7th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Davis, Danny K.	IL	7th	D	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	67%
Davis, Geoff	KY	4th	R										0%
Davis, Jim	FL	11th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Davis, Jo Ann	VA	1st	R					✓					11%
Davis, Lincoln	TN	4th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	89%
Davis, Susan A.	CA	53rd	D	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	78%
Davis, Tom	VA	11th	R										0%
Deal, Nathan	GA	10th	R										0%
DeFazio, Peter A.	OR	4th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		89%
DeGette, Diana	CO	1st	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Delahunt, William D.	MA	10th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
DeLauro, Rosa L.	CT	3rd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Dent, Charles W.	PA	15th	R					✓					11%
Diaz-Balart, Lincoln	FL	21st	R					✓					11%
Diaz-Balart, Mario	FL	25th	R										0%
Dicks, Norman D.	WA	6th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%

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Dingell, John D.	MI	15th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Doggett, Lloyd	TX	25th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Doolittle, John T.	CA	4th	R										0%
Doyle, Michael F.	PA	14th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Drake, Thelma D.	VA	2nd	R										0%
Dreier, David	CA	26th	R										0%
Duncan, John J. Jr.	TN	2nd	R										0%
Edwards, Chet	TX	17th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Ehlers, Vernon J.	MI	3rd	R										0%
Emanuel, Rahm	IL	5th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Emerson, Jo Ann	MO	8th	R										0%
Engel, Eliot L.	NY	17th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
English, Phil	PA	3rd	R										0%
Eshoo, Anna G.	CA	14th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Etheridge, Bob	NC	2nd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Evans, Lane	IL	17th	D				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	67%
Everett, Terry	AL	2nd	R										0%
Farr, Sam	CA	17th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Fattah, Chaka	PA	2nd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Feeney, Tom	FL	24th	R										0%
Ferguson, Mike	NJ	7th	R										0%
Filner, Bob	CA	51st	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Fitzpatrick, Michael G.	PA	8th	R					✓					11%
Flake, Jeff	AZ	6th	R										0%
Foley, Mark	FL	16th	R										0%
Forbes, J. Randy	VA	4th	R				✓	✓					22%
Ford, Harold E. Jr.	TN	9th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Fortenberry, Jeff	NE	1st	R					✓					11%
Fossella, Vito	NY	13th	R									✓	11%
Foxx, Virginia	NC	5th	R										0%
Frank, Barney	MA	4th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Franks, Trent	AZ	2nd	R										0%
Frelinghuysen, Rodney P.	NJ	11th	R										0%
Gallegly, Elton	CA	24th	R										0%
Garrett, Scott	NJ	5th	R										0%
Gerlach, Jim	PA	6th	R	✓	✓			✓					33%
Gibbons, Jim	NV	2nd	R					✓					11%
Gilchrest, Wayne T.	MD	1st	R										0%

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Representative	State	District	Party	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	Score
Gillmor, Paul E.	OH	5th	R										0%
Gingrey, Phil	GA	11th	R										0%
Gohmert, Louie	TX	1st	R							✓			11%
Gonzalez, Charles A.	TX	20th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Goode, Virgil H. Jr.	VA	5th	R					✓					11%
Goodlatte, Bob	VA	6th	R										0%
Gordon, Bart	TN	6th	D	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Granger, Kay	TX	12th	R										0%
Graves, Sam	MO	6th	R	✓				✓		✓			33%
Green, Al	TX	9th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Green, Gene	TX	29th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Green, Mark	WI	8th	R	✓						✓			22%
Grijalva, Raúl M.	AZ	7th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Gutierrez, Luis V.	IL	4th	D	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Gutknecht, Gil	MN	1st	R										0%
Hall, Ralph M.	TX	4th	R					✓					11%
Harman, Jane	CA	36th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Harris, Katherine	FL	13th	R	✓						✓			22%
Hart, Melissa A.	PA	4th	R										0%
Hastings, Alcee L.	FL	23rd	D	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	67%
Hastings, Doc	WA	4th	R										0%
Hayes, Robin	NC	8th	R							✓			11%
Hayworth, J. D.	AZ	5th	R					✓					11%
Hefley, Joel	CO	5th	R										0%
Hensarling, Jeb	TX	5th	R										0%
Herger, Wally	CA	2nd	R										0%
Herse, Stephanie	SD	AL	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	89%
Higgins, Brian	NY	27th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Hinchey, Maurice D.	NY	22nd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Hinojosa, Rubén	TX	15th	D	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	67%
Hobson, David L.	OH	7th	R										0%
Hoekstra, Peter	MI	2nd	R						✓				11%
Holden, Tim	PA	17th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Holt, Rush D.	NJ	12th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Honda, Michael M.	CA	15th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Hooley, Darlene	OR	5th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Hostettler, John N.	IN	8th	R										0%
Hoyer, Steny H.	MD	5th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%

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Hulshof, Kenny C.	MO	9th	R					✓		✓			22%
Hunter, Duncan	CA	52nd	R										0%
Hyde, Henry J.	IL	6th	R										0%
Inglis, Bob	SC	4th	R										0%
Inslee, Jay	WA	1st	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Israel, Steve	NY	2nd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Issa, Darrell E.	CA	49th	R										0%
Istook, Ernest J. Jr.	OK	5th	R										0%
Jackson, Jesse L. Jr.	IL	2nd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Jackson-Lee, Sheila	TX	18th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Jefferson, William J.	LA	2nd	D	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	78%
Jenkins, William L.	TN	1st	R										0%
Jindal, Bobby	LA	1st	R		✓	✓	✓						33%
Johnson, Eddie Bernice	TX	30th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Johnson, Nancy L.	CT	5th	R										0%
Johnson, Sam	TX	3rd	R										0%
Johnson, Timothy V.	IL	15th	R					✓				✓	22%
Jones, Stephanie Tubbs	OH	11th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		78%
Jones, Walter B.	NC	3rd	R	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		33%
Kanjorski, Paul E.	PA	11th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Kaptur, Marcy	OH	9th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Keller, Ric	FL	8th	R										0%
Kelly, Sue W.	NY	19th	R					✓		✓			22%
Kennedy, Mark R.	MN	6th	R							✓			11%
Kennedy, Patrick J.	RI	1st	D	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Kildee, Dale E.	MI	5th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	89%
Kilpatrick, Carolyn C.	MI	13th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Kind, Ron	WI	3rd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	89%
King, Peter T.	NY	3rd	R					✓		✓			22%
King, Steve	IA	5th	R					✓					11%
Kingston, Jack	GA	1st	R										0%
Kirk, Mark Steven	IL	10th	R										0%
Kline, John	MN	2nd	R							✓			11%
Knollenberg, Joe	MI	9th	R										0%
Kolbe, Jim	AZ	8th	R										0%
Kucinich, Dennis J.	OH	10th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Kuhl, John R. "Randy" Jr.	NY	29th	R							✓			11%
LaHood, Ray	IL	18th	R										0%

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 H.AMDT.13 to H.R.27

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Langevin, James R.	RI	2nd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Lantos, Tom	CA	12th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Larsen, Rick	WA	2nd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Larson, John B.	CT	1st	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Latham, Tom	IA	4th	R										0%
LaTourette, Steven C.	OH	14th	R	✓						✓			22%
Leach, James A.	IA	2nd	R						✓	✓			22%
Lee, Barbara	CA	9th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Levin, Sander M.	MI	12th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Lewis, Jerry	CA	41st	R										0%
Lewis, John	GA	5th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Lewis, Ron	KY	2nd	R										0%
Linder, John	GA	7th	R										0%
Lipinski, Daniel	IL	3rd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
LoBiondo, Frank A.	NJ	2nd	R							✓			11%
Lofgren, Zoe	CA	16th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Lowey, Nita M.	NY	18th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Lucas, Frank D.	OK	3rd	R										0%
Lungren, Daniel E.	CA	3rd	R										0%
Lynch, Stephen F.	MA	9th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	89%
Mack, Connie	FL	14th	R				✓						11%
Maloney, Carolyn B.	NY	14th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Manzullo, Donald A.	IL	16th	R					✓					11%
Marchant, Kenny	TX	24th	R							✓			11%
Markey, Edward J.	MA	7th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Marshall, Jim	GA	3rd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Matheson, Jim	UT	2nd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Matsui, Doris O.	CA	5th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	100%
McCarthy, Carolyn	NY	4th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
McCaul, Michael T.	TX	10th	R										0%
McCollum, Betty	MN	4th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
McCotter, Thaddeus G.	MI	11th	R					✓		✓			22%
McCrery, Jim	LA	4th	R		✓		✓						22%
McDermott, Jim	WA	7th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
McGovern, James P.	MA	3rd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
McHenry, Patrick T.	NC	10th	R										0%
McHugh, John M.	NY	23rd	R	✓									11%
McIntyre, Mike	NC	7th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%

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McKeon, Howard P. "Buck"	CA	25th	R		✓								11%
McKinney, Cynthia	GA	4th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	89%
McMorris, Cathy	WA	5th	R										11%
McNulty, Michael R.	NY	21st	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Meehan, Martin T.	MA	5th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
MEEK, Kendrick B.	FL	17th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Meeks, Gregory W.	NY	6th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Melancon, Charlie	LA	3rd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Mica, John L.	FL	7th	R				✓						11%
Michaud, Michael H.	ME	2nd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Millender-McDonald, Juanita	CA	37th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		89%
Miller, Brad	NC	13th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Miller, Candice S.	MI	10th	R										0%
Miller, Gary G.	CA	42nd	R										0%
Miller, George	CA	7th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Miller, Jeff	FL	1st	R										0%
Mollohan, Alan B.	WV	1st	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Moore, Dennis	KS	3rd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Moore, Gwen	WI	4th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Moran, James P.	VA	8th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Moran, Jerry	KS	1st	R					✓		✓			22%
Murphy, Tim	PA	18th	R										0%
Murtha, John P.	PA	12th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Musgrave, Marilyn N.	CO	4th	R										0%
Myrick, Sue Wilkins	NC	9th	R										0%
Nadler, Jerrold	NY	8th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Napolitano, Grace F.	CA	38th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Neal, Richard E.	MA	2nd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Neugebauer, Randy	TX	19th	R										0%
Ney, Robert W.	OH	18th	R	✓			✓			✓			33%
Northup, Anne M.	KY	3rd	R										0%
Norwood, Charlie	GA	9th	R										0%
Nunes, Devin	CA	21st	R										0%
Nussle, Jim	IA	1st	R										0%
Oberstar, James L.	MN	8th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	78%
Obey, David R.	WI	7th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	89%
Olver, John W.	MA	1st	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Ortiz, Solomon P.	TX	27th	D										89%

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 H.AMDT.13 to H.R.27

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Osborne, Tom	NE	3rd	R					✓					11%
Otter, C. L. "Butch"	ID	1st	R										0%
Owens, Major R.	NY	11th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Oxley, Michael G.	OH	4th	R										0%
Pallone, Frank Jr.	NJ	6th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Pascrell, Bill Jr.	NJ	8th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Pastor, Ed	AZ	4th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Paul, Ron	TX	14th	R	✓	✓					✓			44%
Payne, Donald M.	NJ	10th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Pearce, Stevan	NM	2nd	R					✓				✓	22%
Pelosi, Nancy	CA	8th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Pence, Mike	IN	6th	R										0%
Peterson, Collin C.	MN	7th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		67%
Peterson, John E.	PA	5th	R										0%
Petri, Thomas E.	WI	6th	R										0%
Pickering, Charles W. "Chip"	MS	3rd	R					✓					11%
Pitts, Joseph R.	PA	16th	R					✓		✓			0%
Platts, Todd Russell	PA	19th	R	✓									33%
Poe, Ted	TX	2nd	R					✓					11%
Pombo, Richard W.	CA	11th	R										0%
Pomeroy, Earl	ND	AL	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Porter, Jon C.	NV	3rd	R	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	44%
Price, David E.	NC	4th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Price, Tom	GA	6th	R										0%
Pryce, Deborah	OH	15th	R										0%
Putnam, Adam H.	FL	12th	R										0%
Radanovich, George	CA	19th	R										0%
Rahall, Nick J. II	WV	3rd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	89%
Ramstad, Jim	MN	3rd	R	✓				✓	✓	✓			33%
Rangel, Charles B.	NY	15th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Regula, Ralph	OH	16th	R										0%
Rehberg, Dennis R.	MT	AL	R										0%
Reichert, David G.	WA	8th	R					✓					11%
Renzi, Rick	AZ	1st	R	✓				✓		✓		✓	44%
Reyes, Silvestre	TX	16th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Reynolds, Thomas M.	NY	26th	R										0%
Rogers, Harold	KY	5th	R										0%
Rogers, Mike	AL	3rd	R				✓						11%

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Rogers, Mike	MI	8th	R										0%
Rohrabacher, Dana	CA	46th	R										0%
Ros-Lehtinen, Ileana	FL	18th	R					✓					11%
Ross, Mike	AR	4th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Rothman, Steven R.	NJ	9th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	78%
Roybal-Allard, Lucille	CA	34th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Royce, Edward R.	CA	40th	R										0%
Ruppersberger, C. A. Dutch	MD	2nd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Rush, Bobby L.	IL	1st	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Ryan, Paul	WI	1st	R										0%
Ryan, Tim	OH	17th	D	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	78%
Ryun, Jim	KS	2nd	R										0%
Sabo, Martin Olav	MN	5th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Salazar, John T.	CO	3rd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Sánchez, Linda T.	CA	39th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Sanchez, Loretta	CA	47th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Sanders, Bernard	VT	AL	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Saxton, Jim	NJ	3rd	R										0%
Schakowsky, Janice D.	IL	9th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Schiff, Adam B.	CA	29th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Schmidt, Jean	OH	2nd	R				x	x	x	x	x	x	0%
Schwartz, Allyson Y.	PA	13th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Schwarz, John J. H. "Joe"	MI	7th	R										0%
Scott, David	GA	13th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Scott, Robert C.	VA	3rd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Sensenbrenner, F. James Jr.	WI	5th	R										0%
Serrano, José E.	NY	16th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Sessions, Pete	TX	32nd	R										0%
Shadegg, John B.	AZ	3rd	R										0%
Shaw, E. Clay Jr.	FL	22nd	R										0%
Shays, Christopher	CT	4th	R					✓					11%
Sherman, Brad	CA	27th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Sherwood, Don	PA	10th	R										0%
Shimkus, John	IL	19th	R										0%
Shuster, Bill	PA	9th	R					✓					11%
Simmons, Rob	CT	2nd	R					✓					11%
Simpson, Michael K.	ID	2nd	R										0%
Skelton, Ike	MO	4th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%

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Slaughter, Louise McIntosh	NY	28th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Smith, Adam	WA	9th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	78%
Smith, Christopher H.	NJ	4th	R					✓					11%
Smith, Lamar S.	TX	21st	R										0%
Snyder, Vic	AR	2nd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Sodrel, Michael E.	IN	9th	R										0%
Solis, Hilda L.	CA	32nd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Souder, Mark E.	IN	3rd	R										0%
Spratt, John M. Jr.	SC	5th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Stark, Fortney Pete	CA	13th	D	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Stearns, Cliff	FL	6th	R							✓			11%
Strickland, Ted	OH	6th	D		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	78%
Stupak, Bart	MI	1st	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Sullivan, John	OK	1st	R										0%
Sweeney, John E.	NY	20th	R									✓	11%
Tancredo, Thomas G.	CO	6th	R										0%
Tanner, John S.	TN	8th	D	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Tauscher, Ellen O.	CA	10th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Taylor, Charles H.	NC	11th	R						✓				11%
Taylor, Gene	MS	4th	D	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	78%
Terry, Lee	NE	2nd	R					✓					11%
Thomas, William M.	CA	22nd	R										0%
Thompson, Bennie G.	MS	2nd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	89%
Thompson, Mike	CA	1st	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Thornberry, Mac	TX	13th	R										0%
Tiahrt, Todd	KS	4th	R										0%
Tiberi, Patrick J.	OH	12th	R										0%
Tierney, John F.	MA	6th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Towns, Edolphus	NY	10th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	89%
Turner, Michael R.	OH	3rd	R							✓			11%
Udall, Mark	CO	2nd	D	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Udall, Tom	NM	3rd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Upton, Fred	MI	6th	R										0%
Van Hollen, Chris	MD	8th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Velázquez, Nydia M.	NY	12th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Visclosky, Peter J.	IN	1st	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Walden, Greg	OR	2nd	R										0%
Walsh, James T.	NY	25th	R				✓						11%

Special Report on the 109th Congress House of Representatives: Lost Opportunities to Support U.S. Small Business

VOTING KEY:

✓ = Member voted for legislation.
 x = Member was not elected when vote occurred.
 Score is calculated only for votes occurring on or after the date the member was elected.

H.AMDT.1103 to H.R.5672
 H.AMDT.747 to H.R.4939
 H.AMDT.748 to H.R.4939
 H.AMDT.511 to H.R.4939
 H.AMDT.437 to H.R.3070
 H.AMDT.333 to H.R.3058
 H.AMDT.255 to H.R.2863
 H.RES.22
 H.AMDT.13 to H.R.27

Representative	State	District	Party	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	Score
Wamp, Zach	TN	3rd	R										0%
Wasserman Schultz, Debbie	FL	20th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	89%
Waters, Maxine	CA	35th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	78%
Watson, Diane E.	CA	33rd	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Watt, Melvin L.	NC	12th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Waxman, Henry A.	CA	30th	D	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	78%
Weiner, Anthony D.	NY	9th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Weldon, Curt	PA	7th	R	✓				✓		✓			33%
Weldon, Dave	FL	15th	R										0%
Weller, Jerry	IL	11th	R										0%
Westmoreland, Lynn A.	GA	8th	R										0%
Wexler, Robert	FL	19th	D	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	78%
Whitfield, Ed	KY	1st	R			✓				✓			22%
Wicker, Roger F.	MS	1st	R										0%
Wilson, Heather	NM	1st	R	✓						✓			22%
Wilson, Joe	SC	2nd	R										0%
Wolf, Frank R.	VA	10th	R										0%
Woolsey, Lynn C.	CA	6th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Wu, David	OR	1st	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Wynn, Albert Russell	MD	4th	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Young, C. W. Bill	FL	10th	R										0%
Young, Don	AK	AL	R	✓									11%

Details of Opportunities Lost to Support Small Business in the 109th Congress House of Representatives

The following pages provide vote by vote details of the opportunities lost in the 109th Congress, and explain why these votes were important to American small businesses.

Support denied to American businesses through the loss of these opportunities include support of family farms, micro-lending, low-income areas, hurricane and disaster relief, federal contracting opportunities, 7(a) lending, supporting entrepreneurship as a viable alternative for laid off workers, and a strong and serious Small Business Bill of Rights.

Opportunities Lost in the 109th Congress

#1 Failed to Restore Funding to Support Family Farms, Micro-Entrepreneurs, and Businesses in Low-Income Areas

Congress has repeatedly cut funding to the hallmark SBA lending programs.

The SBA's loan programs play a critical role in providing affordable financing options to populations that may not otherwise be able to secure capital. One priority is to target lending opportunities to rural and low income areas. To aid with this, the LowDoc and Community Express programs were designed to serve as catalysts for steering capital into these regions. Due to funding cuts, SBA trimmed support for these initiatives, including terminating the LowDoc program.

An amendment was offered to restore funding totaling \$40 million to the SBA's lending programs to enable its continued operation. This funding would allow for businesses such as family farms, micro-entrepreneurs and those in low-income areas to have an avenue to get their business off the ground. Congress adjourned without addressing this which will result in the continued narrowing of services provided, leaving many portions of the country that are already facing fewer financing options, with even less capital to aid in their community's economic growth.

*H.AMDT.1103 to H.R.5672 -- FY 2007 Commerce, Justice, State, and Science
Appropriations Bill
Roll Call 327 June 27, 2006
Passed 214 - 207*

Opportunities Lost in the 109th Congress

#2 Failed to Assure that Small Business Owners in Gulf Coast Hurricane Received Quick and Efficient Support

America's small businesses waited months for assistance.

The devastation in the Gulf Region after Hurricane Katrina revealed our federal government's inability to respond in the face of a natural disaster. One of the most striking shortfalls was a lack of rebuilding assistance to local firms. The primary federal program to aid businesses - the SBA's disaster loan program - failed to serve as an immediate and accessible source of capital. In fact, one year later, only \$2 billion of the \$10 billion approved disaster loans had been disbursed. This was mainly due to a combination of system failures and a lack of manpower that resulted in massive backlogs.

An amendment was offered to extend the deadline for disaster loan applications, to ensure that businesses and homeowners in the Gulf had ample opportunity to seek assistance. The change would mitigate the negative impacts that were due to the administration's mismanagement of the program, by ensuring that an application deadline was not imposed until the programmatic problems were resolved. This sensible change was rejected, compounding the ability of the region to recover and rebuild.

H.AMDT.747 to H.R.4939 -- Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006
Roll Call 61 March 16, 2006
Defeated 201 - 213

Opportunities Lost in the 109th Congress

#3 Failed to Protect Small Business Owners During Future Disasters

Congress has not learned from 9/11 and Katrina that the SBA needs to be ready to act strongly in the event of terror or tragedy.

The SBA's disaster loan program was created to serve as an affordable source of capital for local businesses and homeowners. The program, which provides low interest rates to aid in the aftermath of natural disasters, is a critical tool in allowing local economies to recover quickly. However, that would have changed under the administration's FY 2007 budget, which proposed to increase interest rates for small businesses and homeowners by as much as 50 percent.

An amendment to the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery Act of 2006 was offered that would have rejected this interest rate increase, putting Congress on record as opposing any attempt to balance the federal budget on the backs of disaster victims. The failure of this amendment means future victims could face financial uncertainty and higher recovery costs at a time when they can least afford them.

***H.AMDT.748 to H.R.4939 -- Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006
Roll Call 62 March 16, 2006
Defeated 200 - 219.***

Opportunities Lost in the 109th Congress

#4 Failed to Invigorate the Growth of Minority Hi-Tech Companies

Minority businesses lag behind in terms of expanding the hi-tech sector.

Minority-owned businesses are one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy and are expanding in nearly every industry. These businesses generate more than 4.5 million jobs and provide approximately \$96 billion in annual payroll to the economy. However, despite the remarkable growth, they have experienced limited gains in the hi-tech sector. For a variety of reasons, there continues to be a lack of minority-owned firms despite the rising number of minority engineers and minorities with careers in the high tech field.

In order to close this gap, an amendment to the NASA authorization was offered that would have created a four-year pilot program to provide business expertise to the next generation of minority engineers and those in high-tech fields. The program would award grants to minority-serving institutions, to work in conjunction with NASA, to develop more minority high-tech businesses. This relatively small investment would aid in developing the next generation of high-tech firms. Unfortunately, the failure to adopt this proposal means minority entrepreneurship in this area will continue to lag behind.

*H.AMDT.511 to H.R.3070 - FY 2006 NASA Reauthorization Bill
Roll Call 415 July 22, 2005
Defeated 192 - 206*

Opportunities Lost in the 109th Congress

#5 Failed to Ensure Small Business Participation in the Federal Marketplace

Contract bundling and no-bid contracts only serve to harm our country and our small business community.

Last year alone, nearly \$12 billion in contracting opportunities that should have gone to small businesses went to large corporations. This comes at a time when agencies are continuing the practice of contract bundling, creating mega-contracts too large for small business participation. As a result, those small firms attempting to access the federal marketplace are faced with an increasingly challenging environment.

An amendment was offered to open the federal marketplace by stopping one of these mega-contracts that unfairly shut out small businesses. The amendment to the Transportation, Treasury, HUD, Judiciary, District of Columbia (TTHUD) would have allowed hundreds of small businesses the opportunity to compete to provide travel agent services. Because the final conference report did not include this critical proposal, Congress lost an opportunity to return the federal government to a more balanced approach where both large and small businesses play a part in ensuring the federal government gets the best value for the taxpayer dollar.

***H.AMDT.437 to H.R.3058 - FY 2006, Transportation, Treasury, HUD, Judiciary, District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Bill
Roll Call 356 June 30, 2005
Passed 233 - 192***

Opportunities Lost in the 109th Congress

#6 Failed to Remove Obstacles to Small Business Competitiveness in Federal Contracting

Unnecessary contracting rules inhibit small business competitiveness and unfairly favor large business control of the federal marketplace.

Despite the federal marketplace's massive growth over the last decade, small businesses face unnecessary obstacles in bidding for and winning federal contracts. In 2006, it was revealed that the federal government missed its small business contracting goal for the sixth consecutive year. Despite these problems, there have been efforts to restrict, as opposed to expand, small business participation in federal contracting.

An amendment was offered to eliminate a program that waives all small business protections for federal agencies on the bidding of certain federal contracts. The program, the Small Business Competitiveness Demonstration Program, was created so small businesses could participate in a mix of industries performing government work. Instead of accomplishing this goal, the program has restricted small businesses' access to contracts by effectively imposing a cap on the number of contracts small firms in certain industries can compete for. The passage of the amendment would have removed this obstacle and required contracting agencies to apply the same standards in all industries. By not adopting this amendment, Congress voted to maintain this barrier that has impeded many small businesses from accessing the federal marketplace, continuing the likelihood that small business contracting goals will not be met.

***H.AMDT.333 to H.R.2863 - FY 2006 Defense Department Appropriations Bill
Roll Call 286 June 20, 2005
Defeated 180-235***

Opportunities Lost in the 109th Congress

#7

Failed to Lower the Cost of SBA Lending Programs

The fees to small and mid-sized businesses to secure 7 (a) loans have increased \$1,500 - \$3,000.

For small business owners, access to capital is access to opportunity. The Small Business Administration's 7(a) loan program has long filled this void serving as a major source of financing for entrepreneurs. However, recent changes to the program have saddled small firms with substantially higher costs to secure this type of loan.

Today small businesses are paying the federal government twice as much to access these loans. In some cases it exceeds \$50,000 dollars. This is hampering capital formation during a period that has also been laden with rising interest rates. In order to change this an amendment was offered to the FY 2006 State, Science, Justice, and Commerce Appropriations bill. While this passed in the House with strong bipartisan support, had it been included in the conference report it would have reduced the financial burden on entrepreneurs using the 7(a) program by \$79 million, would begin the process of returning the program as a source of affordable capital.

***H.AMDT.255 to H.R.2862 - FY 2006 Commerce, Justice, State, and Science
Appropriations Bill
June 14, 2005, Roll no. 246
Passed 234 - 189***

Opportunities Lost in the 109th Congress

#8 Failed to Include the Real Value and Needs of Small Business in Passing a Watered Down Version of the, “Small Business Bill of Rights”

Instead of respecting and supporting small business through a strong “Small Business Bill of Rights,” Congress provided watered down legislation with a media friendly title.

The role of small businesses as the main job creator in local economies, and nationwide cannot be understated. Legislation was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives that intended to recognize their contributions as well as lay out the key issues Congress needed to address for this nation's entrepreneurs. Unfortunately, the resolution fell short in both the recognition of various portions of the small business community and the work that Congress needs to undertake.

To correct this, a motion to recommit was offered that would put Congress on record supporting a comprehensive agenda for small businesses to break down barriers to federal contracting and provide these firms with access to capital. It also would have recognized the important contributions that the new faces in small businesses - women and minority entrepreneurs - provide to the economy. The motion was defeated, indicating an unwillingness in the House to recognize the policies that are hindering small business growth.

***H.RES.22 - The Small Business Bill of Rights, 2005
Roll Call 140 April 27, 2005
Defeated 188-222***

Opportunities Lost in the 109th Congress

#9 Failed to Support Entrepreneurship as a Viable Alternative for Laid Off Employees

In our changing world, entrepreneurship is a strong option for laid off workers. Instead, Congress has limited the horizons and potential for innovation from these Americans.

The avenues to entrepreneurship are many and one oft-overlooked path for employees who are laid off is starting a business. In the 1990s, over forty percent of middle managers for large corporations who were laid off looked to start their own venture. Unfortunately, for many of these "would-be entrepreneurs," access to capital remains one of the top barriers for launching their ventures. To ease this burden, an amendment was offered that would allow unemployed workers to use their Personal Reemployment Account funds to help obtain a business loan from the Small Business Administration.

The amendment would have given these unemployed workers another option in getting back in the workforce. By allowing them to use their Reemployment Account Funds to defray loan costs, it would expand the horizons in which these individuals could start contributing to the U.S. economy. The amendment was rejected, leaving in place one of the largest hurdles for these budding entrepreneurs. The end result will be an economy that discourages innovation and risk-taking that have proven to be the foundation of economic growth.

*H.AMDT.13 to H.R.27 - Job Training Improvement Act of 2005
Roll Call 45 March 2, 2005
Defeated 202 - 221*

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