

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 13, 2011

The Honorable C.W. Bill Young  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Defense  
House Appropriations Committee  
H149 Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norman D. Dicks  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Defense  
House Appropriations Committee  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Young and Ranking Member Dicks:

Thank you for your Subcommittee's bipartisan support of the Procurement Technical Assistance Program (PTAP), which is funded and administered through the Defense Logistics Agency's Office of Small Business. Given the needs of our nation's small businesses, we respectfully write to request your support for maintaining the current level of funding of \$31,659,000 in the FY2012 Defense Appropriations Bill and Report -- this is the same amount included in the FY2011 Continuing Resolution.

Small businesses are critical for our nation's economic recovery. Having access to a strong network of Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTACs) in virtually every state is a vital resource for small businesses -- enabling them to obtain critical information and training on new acquisition procedures, specialized solicitations, and federal contracting regulations. In turn, PTACs help generate new suppliers for the Defense Department -- resulting in greater competition, higher quality goods and services at lower cost for the warfighter, a stronger defense industrial base, and a more prudent expenditure of taxpayer dollars.

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 -- generating over 114,000 contracts with \$17.42 billion and creating and retaining 348,000 jobs. 95% of these contracts were awarded to small businesses. The PTAP performance represents a return of almost \$600 for every federal dollar spent on the program.

The PTAP is an authorized program under 10 USC 2412 Chapter 142.; Businesses need the PTACs now more than ever. Although the PTAP has been in the President budget request since FY1999, the request has been typically less than the necessary funding to meet the needs of the nation's small businesses. This year, the President requested \$25.3 million -- far short of the \$31.659 million that was included in the FY2011 Continuing Resolution.

Given the value of the PTAP to our nation's small business community and the warfighter, we thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Joe Courtney

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Shelley Berkeley

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John Smith

Signed By

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