

## **VIP QUOTES IN SUPPORT OF THE ELIMINATION OF THE EXEMPTIONS FROM THE 'FAR'**

### ***Elected Officials***

*"Despite the Federal contracting budget increasing by at least \$20 Billion last year, the percentage going to small businesses decreased and the government still isn't counting the whole pie because of special exemptions and exclusions."*

**Sen. John Kerry, Chairman  
Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship**

*"Executive Departments do not have the discretion to interpret the law in a matter inconsistent with its plain language. The unambiguous Congressional intent (is) that the Act governs all procurements. There are serious concerns that small firms do not reap commensurate benefits in the form of task orders."*

**Sen. Olympia Snowe, Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship**

*"I share your concern that federal procurement under the set-aside program should include "foreign" as well as domestic purchasing... to insure that government purchasing agencies properly follow congressional intent with regards to the Act's Set-Aside provisions."*

**Cong. John Mica, Member  
House Government Reform Committee**

### ***Advocacy Groups***

*"These illegal regulations have done more damage to public confidence in government contracting and to the economic viability of small business than 9/11 and Katrina combined and FPA is determined to stop their influence on the procurement community."*

**Raul Espinosa, Founder and Spokesperson  
Fairness in Procurement Alliance (FPA)**

*"This SBA decision is a huge win for the small business community and fair competition. SBA has confirmed what Congress has been saying all along: the so-called 'set-aside exemptions from the Small Business Act have no legal justification. Now, it is time for the GAO to hold bureaucrats accountable for ignoring Congressional policy on fair treatment of small businesses."*

**Max Kidalov, Former Republican Counsel  
Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship**

*"This Legal Opinion, freeing in excess of \$60 Billion in annual contracts for small businesses, opens the way for the Senate to support the House Bill (H.R. 1783) calling for an increase in the set-aside ceiling from 23 to 30 percent."*

**Roger Campos, President and CEO  
Minority Business RoundTable (MBRT)**

*"OFPP must now re-train the entire government procurement workforce with rules favorable to small businesses. SBA must now also instruct its field staff to begin assisting small businesses who challenge procurements under \$100,000 which are either restricted to GSA Schedule Holders Only or are considered Foreign and exclude small and minority businesses."*

**Hank Wilfong, President and CEO  
National Association of Small and Disadvantaged Businesses (NASDB)**

*"SBA's Legal Opinion validates that Congress intent is not carried out for small and minority businesses and contracts for large businesses keep getting larger with 80% going sole source without competition at greater cost to the public."*

**Rawley Soberano, President and CEO  
Asian American Business RoundTable (AABRT)**

*"This SBA Legal Opinion is extraordinary because it verifies that the 'set-aside exemptions' are and have always been illegal and discriminatory towards small and minority businesses."*

**Anthony Robinson, President  
MBELDEF**

*"This historic SBA legal opinion confirms that the exemptions are responsible for having diverted more than \$600 billion in federal contracts away from small businesses over the last ten years."*

**Lloyd Chapman, President  
American Small Business League (ASBL)**

*"FPA should now be given a say on any decision which would re-align the procurement landscape the way Congress intended."*

**Dr. Henry Thomas  
FPA Think Tank at The University of North Florida**

*"This is a significant step towards expanding opportunities for small businesses to compete more effectively in the global marketplace,"*

**Karen Atkinson, Executive Director  
Native American Contractors Association.**

***If your organization or trade group supports the elimination of the 'Exemptions'  
and would like to be added to this list, do send your comments to  
[raul.espinosa@fitnet.net](mailto:raul.espinosa@fitnet.net)***