

The Coalition for the White House Conference on Small Business (WHCSB)

February 13, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

We are writing to respectfully request that you sign an Executive Order authorizing the next White House Conference on Small Business (WHCSB) which has not taken place in over two decades. That is far too long to go without giving voice and a forum to America's small businesses which account for 99 percent of U.S. private sector employers and 64 percent of net new private sector jobs.

The WHCSB was a series of three conferences that occurred in 1980, 1986, and 1995. They were convened by Presidents Jimmy Carter (originating by Executive Order [12091](#)), Ronald Reagan (originating from Congressional authorization of [P.L. 98-276](#)) and Bill Clinton (originating from Congressional authorization [P.L. 101-409](#)) in an effort to foster better relationships with the business community, Congress and the White House to develop innovative policy solutions to economic problems. President Carter and President Clinton presented the 1980 and 1995 Conference's keynote addresses, respectively.

All three Conferences shared similar organizational formats and activities performed, with differences generated in process and outcomes. To their credit, each of the three Conferences issued 60 policy recommendations for Congress and the Administration to consider. In addition, the 1995 Conference delegates elected regional implementation teams that worked closely with Small Business Administration (SBA) officials in monitoring congressional and executive branch action on the 1995 Conference's recommendations after the Conference had ended. The SBA attributed much of the 1995 Conference's implementation "success rate" to the efforts of these implementation teams.

A critical piece to the success of the WHCSB is the utilization of state conferences to ensure broad and equitable representation of the very diverse small-business community. Through the state conferences, which feed into the regional conferences and then into the national conference, small business owners can develop, enhance and fully embrace the key issues facing small businesses nationwide. In addition to building consensus, growing small business networks and nurturing future small business leaders, the state conferences and broad participation of small businesses lend credibility to addressing issues and the final list of recommendations.

We encourage your administration to reunite the wide variety of voices within the small business community, by hosting the next WHCSB, to help educate Congress and the White House on issues that matter most to small businesses. Just as in 1995, which was when the last WHCSB occurred, we can leverage the collective strength and voice of small business, to make it easier to do business with the federal government, create jobs and prosperity for our country.

Sincerely,

American Bus Association
American Franchisee Association
American Moving & Storage Association
American Rental Association
American Subcontractors Association
AmericanHort

Asian American Hotel Owners Association
Association of Mature American Citizens
Association of Women's Business Centers
Auto Care Association
Building Service Contractors Association International
Business Coalition for Fair Competition
DHI
Global Cold Chain Alliance
HARDI - Heating Air-conditioning & Refrigeration Distributors International
Health Agents for America
Independent Community Bankers of America
Independent Electrical Contractors
Independent Office Products & Furniture Dealers Association
International Hearing Society
Land Improvement Contractors of America
MAPPS
Minority Business RoundTable
National Association of RV Parks & Campgrounds
National Association of Women Business Owners
National Electrical Contractors Association
National Electrical Manufacturers Representatives Association
National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association
National Office Products Alliance
National Pest Management Association
National Small Business Association
National Small Business Network
National Society of Professional Surveyors
National Veteran Small Business Coalition
NPES The Association for Suppliers of Printing, Publishing and Converting Technologies
Office Furniture Dealers Alliance
Petroleum Marketers Association of America
Precious Metals Association of North America
Promotional Products Association International
Saturation Mailers Coalition
Secondary Materials and Recycled Textiles Association
Service Station Dealers of American and Allied Trades
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council
Small Business Council of America
Small Business Investor Alliance
Small Business Legislative Council
Society of American Florists
Specialty Equipment Market Association
Specialty Graphic Imaging Association
Specialty Tools & Fasteners Distributors Association
Textile Care Allied Trades Association
Tire Industry Association
United Motorcoach Association