



January 15, 2019

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Chair
Committee on Small Business
U.S. Senate
428A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ben Cardin
Ranking Member
Committee on Small Business
U.S. Senate
428A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nydia Velazquez
Chair
Committee on Small Business
U.S. House of Representatives
2360 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steve Chabot
Ranking Member
Committee on Small Business
U.S. House of Representatives
2360 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairs Rubio and Velazquez, and Ranking Members Cardin and Chabot:

On behalf of Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP), a national, nonpartisan organization advocating on behalf of women entrepreneurs, I am writing to urge Congress and the Administration to restore full operation of the federal government.

Women business owners are a strong economic force in the United States. Today, there are 9.9 million women owned businesses, creating nearly 9 million jobs, and generating \$1.6 trillion in receipts. As the government shutdown continues, we hear from our members that the adverse consequences continue to grow across the country. Small businesses are unable to receive assistance from the Small Business Administration (SBA). Grants, contracts, and payments for work already performed continue to be delayed. Federal rulemakings are at a standstill and hundreds of thousands of federal employees and contractors go without pay.

According to a report released by House Small Business Committee Chair Nydia Velazquez, small firms nationally forgo 6,875 contract actions a day, worth \$301 million during a shutdown. Based on prior shutdowns, federal contractors could lose or be delayed in receiving \$200 million per day.



In FY2018, \$24.2 billion in federal contracts went to small business set-asides, with \$508.5 million awarded to women-owned small businesses. More than 28% of those contracts won by women were awarded by agencies now impacted by the shutdown. With each passing day, the situation for federal contractors only gets worse. A total of 412 small business contracts with the affected agencies, worth \$354 million, are ending next month.

For those who contract with the federal government, the longest shut down in history continues to put women small business owners at risk of losing their employees because they will seek employment elsewhere or go out of business altogether.. WIPP urges you to expeditiously move legislation to re-open the federal government. It is vital to the women entrepreneurs that support our nation's economy.

Sincerely,

Candace Waterman
President and CEO
Women Impacting Public Policy