



# Small Business Issues in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress

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How the new 112<sup>th</sup> Congress is approaching Small Business reform, and what they are likely to do about it.



- IEEE-USA is ramping up its involvement in Small Business issues
- IEEE-USA staff are experts on Congress, the Federal Government and the media
  - We are not experts on how to start new companies
  - That's your area of expertise
- IEEE-USA needs to hear from you before we can talk to Congress

**IEEE-USA & Small Business**

- Jerry McNerney (D-CA)
  - Mathematician
  - Wind turbines
- Daniel Webster (R-FL)
  - Electrical Engineer
  - Family-owned heating and air-conditioning company
- Jeff Denham (R-CA)
  - Plastics company
- Paul Gosar (R-AZ)
  - Dentist
- David McKinley (R-WV)
  - Architectural engineering company
- Mike Pompeo (R-KS)
  - Aerospace & oil services equipment
- Blake Farenthold (R-TX)
  - Computer & web design

## **Small Business in Congress**

**House Committee on  
Small Business**



Rep. Sam Graves  
(R-MO)



Nydia M. Velazquez  
(D-NY)

**Senate Committee on Small Business  
and Entrepreneurship**



Sen. Mary Landrieu  
(D-LA)



Sen. Olympia Snowe  
(R-ME)

**2011 Small Business  
Committee Leadership**

- Tight budgetary environment
- Strong support for small businesses on Capitol Hill
- Little understanding of small technology businesses on Capitol Hill
- Divided government requires compromise

## **Political Realities**

To pass, small business legislation must find support among both Republicans and Democrats, and not cost any extra money.

**Political Realities**

- Effort Hijacked at end of 2010
  - Became the vehicle for Don't Ask, Don't Tell repeal
- Programs reauthorized until January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011
- Current Legislative Plan
  - Reauthorization bill introduced last week
    - H.R. 366
  - Both House and Senate will fast-track bill
  - Passed by Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>
  - Good plan, but no room for error

## **SBIR & STTR Reauthorization**

# SBIR & STTR Reauthorization Long Term

- Priority for both parties
- Sticking points:
  - Length of Reauthorization
    - Senate: 8 to 14 years
    - House: 2 to 5 years
  - Set-Aside Percentage
    - Not likely to be a big issue this year
  - Venture Capitalists
    - House drafting new guidelines
    - Senate not happy about that

- Key priority for both parties
- No huge ideological issues at stake
- No budgetary issues
- Republicans: Early chance to show they can get stuff done
- Democrats: Early chance they can be pro-business

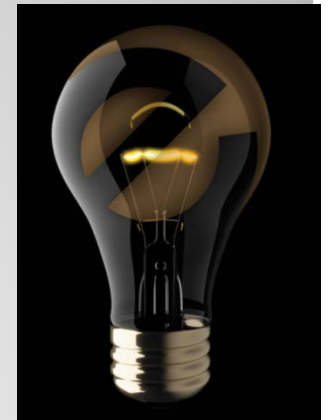
## **SBIR & STTR Reauthorization Prospects**

- Just because it is in their interest to work together, does not mean the Parties will
- Universities don't like it
  - Saps their research budgets
  - Universities are already having their budgets reduced
- The public doesn't care

## **SBIR & STTR Reauthorization Potential Problems**



- Broadband access
- Export promotion
  - Credit & insurance
  - Websites
  - Translation Services
- Regulation reduction
  - Dodd-Franks Act
  - Obama Op-Ed



## **Other Bipartisan Policies**

- Access to Capital
- Federal Contracting Rules

Looking for Ideas



- Roundtable discussions next two weeks
- Hearings in the spring
- Both Chambers looking for ideas
  - Again, small discreet bipartisan bills that don't cost anything.

**What Next?**

- Congress wants to help technology entrepreneurs, but doesn't know how
- TELL THEM!
- Senate staff is looking for SBIR success stories
- Everyone is looking for ideas

Staff was very receptive to my offer to help.  
They will like you even more.

**Your Assignment!**

# Following Up

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## Senate Small Business Committee

- (202) 224-5175
- <http://sbc.senate.gov>

## House Small Business Committee

- (202) 225-5821
- <http://smallbusiness.house.gov>

**Questions?**