

March 13, 2019

The Honorable Dwight Evans
Vice Chair
Committee on Small Business
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Vice Chair Evans,

We are writing to express our support for H.R. 953. Our organizations represent small businesses and federal contractors that will benefit from this legislation, which prevents government shutdowns from negatively impacting credit scores.

The recent 35-day shutdown hit small businesses and contractors particularly hard. According to Bloomberg Government, the shutdown cost federal contractors \$3.5 billion in contract revenue. Additionally, the House Small Business Committee report on the shutdown estimated over 350,000 small business contracts were affected. For many of our members, cash flow during this period became a major issue. Our support for the bill is based on the belief that credit agencies should not count the shutdown's negative effects against the credit scores of federal contractors.

We also support protections contained in the bill for small business owners located near federal buildings. According to a CNBC survey, 35 percent of small business owners nationwide said they experienced a sales slowdown during the shutdown due to lack of demand from nearby federal workers.

H.R. 953 will help small businesses and federal contractors recover from the shutdown's damage and continue to access the capital they need to grow. While we believe the solution to this issue is prevention of future shutdowns, this protection should be put into place, should further shutdowns occur. Thank you for introducing this important legislation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ann Sullivan at 202-626-8528 or asullivan@madisonservicesgroup.com.

Sincerely,

California Association for Micro Enterprise Opportunity (CAMEO)
HUBZone Contractors National Council
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC)
Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP)

Cc: Chair Nydia Velázquez
Ranking Member Steve Chabot