



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

OFFICE OF FEDERAL
PROCUREMENT POLICY

July 12, 2004

The Honorable Olympia J. Snowe
Chair
Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6350

Dear Senator Snowe:

Thank you for your June 17, 2004, letter in which you expressed interest in ensuring that the panel created by Section 1423 of the FY 2004 National Defense Authorization Act addresses the concerns of small businesses. As you are aware, this Administration has placed a high priority on increasing the participation of small businesses in federal acquisitions, as reflected in the President's Small Business Agenda.

Early in the Administration, we developed a strategy for unbundling federal contracts to increase contracting and subcontracting opportunities for small businesses. Further, this office selected the interests of small businesses to be one of four major priorities assigned to the Federal Acquisition Council. This priority will continue when the Chief Acquisition Officers Council is established as required by the Services Acquisition Reform Act. These are just a few of the actions we have taken to advance federal contracting and subcontracting opportunities for small businesses.

With regard to the Section 1423 panel, we plan to publicly announce the panel members within the next several weeks. Based on your suggestion, I will ensure that a senior level representative from the Small Business Administration will serve on the panel. Moreover, the Office of Federal Procurement Policy will request the panel to specifically address small business contracting and subcontracting issues. We hope these actions will address your concerns regarding the Section 1423 panel, and we look forward to working with you and your Committee staff to ensure the success of the panel.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Burton
Associate Administrator