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Barack Obama, President

White House

Washington, DC

Re: Assistant Secretary of the Navy Sean J. Stackley

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of small and innovative businesses in America, the Small Business Technology Council (SBTC) would like to offer our commendation to your Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition (RDA) Sean J. Stackley for his work with small business, and in particular his contributions to the SBIR and STTR programs.

Mr. Stackley recognizes the important role that innovative small businesses play in meeting the high-tech needs of the US Navy, and has shown that he is committed to fully utilizing their contributions. In January 2015 he issued a memo titled "Tapping into Small Business in a Big Way", that instructed DON PEOs to formulate strategies for incorporating more small businesses in to their contracts in order to meet small business goals, and clarified that SBIR Phase III contracts should be sole source. These two issues have historically been big obstacles for our members in advancing their technologies, and by taking steps to address them Mr. Stackley has shown he understands the challenges small business face in contracting with the government.

Mr. Stackley also demonstrated leadership in directing guidance to Navy personnel in drafting and issuing the Department of Navy's "SBIR and STTR Phase III Guidebook". The SBIR/STTR Phase III program has long been underutilized and misunderstood by SBIR agencies, in spite of the potential it has to help small businesses advance their government-funded next-generation technologies into systems of record. The Phase III guidebook instructs program managers and contracting officials how SBIR Phase III works and how to use the program to better meet agency needs. It is already being used as a desk reference, not just in the Navy but in the other DOD departments and agencies as well.

Assistant Secretary Stackley should be praised for his commitment to small business and his recognition of the importance and usefulness of the SBIR program to DOD's mission. His leadership has helped the Navy become one of the best, most efficient agencies developing small business technology in government.

Sincerely,

Jere W. Glover

Executive Director

Small Business Technology Council