



September 28, 2017

Robert Schmidt
Chairmen

The Honorable Steve Chabot
Chairman
House Committee on Small Business
2371 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nydia Velazquez
Ranking Member
House Committee on Small Business
2302 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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Ash Thakker
Phase III Committee
Chair

Russ Farmer
DCAA Committee
Chair

Dear Chairman Chabot & Ranking Member Velazquez-

The Small Business Technology Council (SBTC), the nation's largest association of small, technology-based companies in diverse fields, requests that you oppose passage of HR 2763, the "Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Improvements Act of 2017", unless the Phase 0 provision is removed.

The bill as written will divert money away from a successful, proven program that produces technologies and jobs by America's entrepreneurs to fund a university- and research institute-exclusive pilot program. Congress should not take money from job-creating small businesses, which receive only 1.7% of Federal R&D, to give more to universities, which already receive ten times as much.

While there are provisions in this bill that the SBTC supports, we strongly oppose the use of STTR money to boost university funding. The provision would siphon \$100 million in small business/university team R&D funding over 5 years to give to university R&D and commercialization programs. The result will be devastating to the DOE, NASA and NSF STTR programs, where this money will drain some 20%-25% of their total budgets. This change would significantly reduce the number of STTR awards, and hundreds of high quality small business and university technologies and teams will not be funded if this provision is included.

STTR has a 25-year track record of successful small business technologies generating high-tech jobs, investment, and patents; while fostering valuable public/private R&D sector partnerships. Expanding Phase 0 will divert R&D funding away from small business-university teams and projects that are merit-selected for their promise and commercialization trajectory, moving funding to university-selected projects. This will displace the jobs and products that would have been created by the STTR entrepreneur-driven teams.

The SBTC's position is that we cannot support legislation that would take money away from SBIR/STTR awardees. The SBTC, including the undersigned 110+ SBIR and STTR firms, must oppose this bill if the Phase 0 provision is funded with existing SBIR/STTR award funding.

Sincerely,

Small Business Technology Council

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