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The Honorable David Vitter  
Chairman  
US Senate Committee on Small Business &  
Entrepreneurship  
428A Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
Ranking Member  
US Senate Committee on Small Business &  
Entrepreneurship  
428A Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Vitter and Ranking Member Shaheen,

The Small Business Technology Council, and the undersigned SBIR small businesses, strongly supports S 2792, the "[Rapid Innovation Fund Enhancement Act of 2016](#)". In the 4+ years since it was first created, the RIF program has already demonstrated its usefulness to America's military in identifying and accelerating promising technologies to fielded systems of record. In addition, the program fulfills a critical need for small businesses seeking funding to help develop their technologies in an economy where commercialization funding is increasingly scarce. SBTC's 2015 survey of RIF recipients showed that 81% could not have advanced their technology without the funds they received from RIF. The improvements and funding increases in this bill will further strengthen this program and help it continue to nurture the next generation of high-tech small businesses.

The SBTC and the members of the SBIR community it represents greatly appreciate the work Senate Committee on Small Business and its members have put into creating this bill, and in particular for the bipartisan leadership of Chairman David Vitter and Ranking Member Jeanne Shaheen. The DOD SBIR community is grateful to the attention paid by the committee to this relatively new innovation program, and we hope that S 2792 is swiftly passed and enacted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jere W. Glover". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

**Jere W. Glover**  
Executive Director  
Small Business Technology Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Schmidt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

**Robert Schmidt**  
Chairman  
Small Business Technology Council



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