

fresh snap beans, among a great deal of other fruits and vegetables. Obviously, this would not be possible without the hard work of our Nation's small farmers and ranchers.

I am proud to join Ranking Member MENG in cosponsoring the Small Agriculture Producer Size Standards Improvements Act, which was introduced by Representative BOST.

H.R. 3714 would strike the \$750,000 statutory size standard and require the SBA to establish size standards for agricultural enterprises through the notice and comment rulemaking process.

It would also require those size standards to be periodically reviewed at least every 5 years. This will ensure that size standards for small farmers and ranchers are up to date so that they are able to compete for Federal contracts, have access to SBA guaranteed loans, and are considered when agencies draft new regulations.

Again, I want to thank Mr. BOST and Ranking Member MENG for their legislation. I also want to thank Chairman CHABOT and Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ.

These are the types of bipartisan bills that will really improve the quality of life for our farmers and for all Americans. I urge passage.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, like all other industries, the agricultural industry has changed over the last 30 years.

With new technologies, many agricultural businesses have been able to increase their production rates. The last Census of Agriculture found U.S. farms sold nearly \$395 billion in agricultural products, a 33 percent increase from the sales of 2007. Crop sales also increased by 48 percent.

The changes made in H.R. 3714 will give SBA the tools necessary to set size standards for those in agricultural production. The bill ensures these adjustments are done with careful consideration as to the effects on small farms. I once again would urge my colleagues to support this measure.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, in closing, allowing the SBA to develop rational size standards for small farmers, rather than perpetuating a one-size-fits-all approach, simply makes sense. It will allow these farmers to access the appropriate SBA programs and helps ensure that regulations are properly crafted.

The provision doesn't have any cost since SBA is already doing this for all other industries. This bill deserves the support of the House, and I would urge my colleagues to vote to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3714.

Again, I want to thank the ranking member and the other Members that have been mentioned here today for their work on this important measure.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3714.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MAXIMIZING SMALL BUSINESS COMPETITION ACT OF 2016

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4332) to amend the Small Business Act to clarify the duties of procurement center representatives with respect to reviewing solicitations for a contract or task order contract.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4332

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Maximizing Small Business Competition Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. DUTIES OF PROCUREMENT CENTER REPRESENTATIVES WITH RESPECT TO REVIEWING SOLICITATIONS FOR A CONTRACT OR TASK ORDER CONTRACT.

Section 15(1)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(1)(2)(D)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (E) through (I) as subparagraphs (F) through (J), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraph:

"(E) review any solicitation for a contract or task order without regard to whether the contract or task order or part of the contract or task order is set aside for small business concerns, whether 1 or more contract or task order awards are reserved for small business concerns under a multiple award contract, or whether or not the solicitation would result in a bundled or consolidated contract (as defined in subsection (s)) or a bundled or consolidated task order;"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) and the gentleman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Small Business has spent this Congress taking a hard look at how the SBA administers its programs. Given that the single most common complaint I receive on Federal contracting is that contracts are unjustly bundled and consolidated so that small businesses are denied the opportunity to compete, the SBA's role in the process became a priority.

The committee learned that a few years ago, the SBA essentially gave contracting officers a get-out-of-jail-free card on bundling and consolidation when it issued new regulations governing which contracts it would review. The SBA said that it would not review multiple award contracts if a single seat on the contract was reserved for a small business—a single seat.

While at first this might seem like a good way to allocate resources, it ignores the fact that a contracting officer can now evade the SBA review by simply reserving one award for a small business, even if the small business never receives any work. It means the contracting agency doesn't need to do its homework on how the contract can be structured to maximize competition. It means small businesses are denied meaningful opportunities to compete for work.

The gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. KELLY) has found a solution for this problem. H.R. 4332 prohibits the SBA from limiting review based on a so-called reserve or similar procedural measure.

The committee has documented that over 25 percent of small businesses previously engaged in Federal contracting have exited the marketplace since 2012. Ensuring that contracts aren't rigged to prevent their participation is one of many steps the Small Business Committee is examining to rebuild our industrial base.

This legislation was included as part of a larger bill that passed the Small Business Committee in January and received bipartisan support. I would urge my colleagues to support and pass H.R. 4332.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 4332, the Maximizing Small Business Competition Act of 2016. Purchasing more than \$400 billion in goods and services annually, the U.S. Government remains a consistent and reliable client for all businesses.

The Small Business Act requires that small businesses have a fair opportunity to compete for Federal contracts. To help facilitate awards to small firms, the act created a position of procurement center representatives, or PCRs. PCRs are placed throughout the country to monitor agencies' major buying activities, with the main goal of increasing the small business share of Federal procurement awards and ensuring that a fair portion of awards go to small businesses of all types.

These representatives are tasked with various duties, including initiating and recommending small businesses set-aside contracts. If the PCR feels that a contract or a portion of a contract can be set aside, he or she can file an appeal to an agency. However, due to decisions made internally at SBA, PCRs are no longer required to

review proposed solicitations that already include a small business set-aside. Thus, there would be no opportunity for them to file an appeal. As a result, an agency can get away with setting aside the bare minimum for small businesses without having a solicitation reviewed by the PCR, which deprives many small businesses of potential opportunities.

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This has been particularly harmful with larger contracts that have been bundled or consolidated. For example, at the General Services Administration, we have seen large contracts worth billions of dollars not receive PCR review. A review could have opened up more of the contracts to small businesses.

The Maximizing Small Business Competition Act of 2016, introduced by Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, seeks to remedy the problem created by the SBA's decision to limit PCR reviews.

The bill would allow PCRs to review contracts regardless of whether the contract already includes a set-aside or partial set-asides for small businesses.

We cannot accept the bare minimum from agencies regarding contracting opportunities for small businesses. If PCRs see that an agency can include more small firms, they should be allowed to appeal the agency.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I ask my fellow Members to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. KELLY) who in a relatively short period of time in this Congress is already showing considerable initiative and has taken a leadership role in the committee.

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, small business are mom-and-pop stores. They are contractors. They are all kinds of people across my district located on Main Street. They are families, they are veterans, and they are individuals in the First District of Mississippi and all across this great Nation.

Small businesses are the heart and soul of local and rural economies, especially in places in rural districts like my district.

H.R. 4332, Maximizing Small Business Competition Act of 2016, is part of an ongoing effort of the Small Business Committee to provide opportunities for small businesses and to promote greater accountability from the Federal Government.

The purpose of the SBA procurement center representatives is to review contracts across the government and make sure they are structured in a way that maximizes opportunities for small businesses to compete.

Unfortunately, the SBA changed their rules to say that, if a contract was restricted to small businesses in whole or in part, procurement center representatives would no longer review the contract.

This rule change has given agencies a way to get around small business administrative review. This rule change has led to contracts being consolidated or bundled, thus limiting opportunity for hundreds of small businesses to compete for work with the Federal Government.

H.R. 4332, the Maximizing Small Business Competition Act of 2016, provides a solution. This legislation makes clear that Small Business Administration procurement center representatives have the ability to review contracts, regardless of whether they are designated for award to small businesses, if the procurement center representative believes the requirement can be structured to improve small-business competition.

This legislation helps to ensure that there are not missed opportunities for small businesses contracting with the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the assistance and leadership shown by my chairman, Chairman CHABOT, and the bipartisan working relationship with Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ in bringing this bill to the floor. I appreciate my colleagues' consideration and support of H.R. 4332.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, PCRs are the first line of offense and defense when ensuring small businesses get their fair share of Federal contracts.

It is troubling that SBA has limited the ability of these professionals to oversee contracts. This decision could result in small firms not receiving the maximum contracting opportunities.

Currently, if a contracting officer sets aside 5 percent of the contract for service-disabled, veteran-owned small businesses, PCRs are not reviewing these applications. A review could find that more could be set aside for these small businesses or perhaps other small-business groups.

This bill ensures that PCRs are seeking out additional opportunities for small business and not relying on contracting officers to guarantee that these businesses are afforded their fair share of prime contracts.

Mr. Speaker, once again I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, allowing small businesses the opportunity to compete for contracts is simply common sense. Competition encourages innovation, lower prices, and job creation.

This bill will alleviate an unnecessary barrier to small-business competition. H.R. 4332 removes a regulatory hurdle. I urge my colleagues to vote to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4332.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT)

that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4332.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UNIFYING SMALL BUSINESS TERMINOLOGY ACT OF 2016

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4325) to amend the Small Business Act to modify the anticipated value of certain contracts reserved exclusively for small business concerns.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4325

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Unifying Small Business Terminology Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF THE ANTICIPATED VALUE OF CERTAIN CONTRACTS RESERVED EXCLUSIVELY FOR SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 15(j)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(j)(1)) is amended by striking "greater than \$2,500 but not greater than \$100,000" and inserting "greater than the micro-purchase threshold defined in section 1902(a) of title 41, United States Code, but not greater than the simplified acquisition threshold".

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 3(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(m)) is amended to read as follows:

"(m) SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION THRESHOLD.—In this Act, the term 'simplified acquisition threshold' has the meaning given such term in section 134 of title 41, United States Code."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) and the gentleman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, many of the contracting provisions in the Small Business Act were written in the 1960s and 1970s. As such, they predate the government's move to a set of standardized contracting terms in 1984.

In reality, this means that the Small Business Act uses outdated terms that make it hard to read in conjunction with other laws. Even the SBA has adopted the new terminology in their regulations, given that over 30 years have passed since it was first adopted.