



March 26, 2019

Senator Joni Ernst
730 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Ernst:

The National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) was founded in 1975 in Washington, D.C. to serve as the first advocacy organization for all women business owners. Nearly forty-four years later we are proud to carry on the tradition of our founders and represent the more than 10 million women business owners in this country.

Women business owners are a diverse subset of our nation's business community and a significant contributor to our nation's economy. Within our NAWBO membership, 25% of NAWBO members exceed more than \$1M in annual revenue. In addition, we are proud to represent solopreneurs, microbusiness owners, and women whose businesses occupy the SME space.

On behalf of our membership, I am writing to commend you for sponsoring **S. 673, The Expanding Contracting Opportunities for Small Businesses Act of 2019**. This bill could lead to a measurable expansion in the size of sole source contracts for SDVOSBs, WOSBs, and HUBZones by eliminating the inclusion of option years in the award price for sole source contracts to grant more opportunities for small businesses to compete for federal contracting opportunities. It also requires contracting officers to notify and coordinate with the SBA to ensure eligible small businesses are winning sole-source awards.

We applaud you for your effort on this important issue in a bipartisan manner.

It is my pleasure to convey our organization's support for this legislation and our readiness to work with you moving forward.

Sincerely,

Molly Gimmel
NAWBO National Board Chair