



Small Business Technology Coalition

Supporting Technology Innovation and Entrepreneurship

June 20, 2000

Jere Glover, Esquire
Chief Counsel
Office of Advocacy
Small Business Administration
409 Third Street, SW
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Mr. Glover:

In view of a forthcoming Congressional oversight hearing on the Office of Advocacy, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate your office for its outstanding work on behalf of small business during your tenure as Chief Counsel.

On behalf of the members of the Small Business Technology Coalition, I want to particularly thank you for your efforts in helping to secure Congressional reauthorization of the SBIR program. More than 5000 technology based small business concerns are the annual recipients of more than \$1.1 billion in Phase I and II SBIR awards. Millions more are awarded annually as Phase III follow-on contracts. Collectively these awards have and are making a demonstrable, profound difference to the Nation's competitiveness and level of productivity, not to mention the economic well being of participating SBIR companies. You and your Office of Advocacy colleagues have been instrumental in helping Congress understand the continued importance of this program and in helping redesign the program so it will be even more effective and productive in the years to come. You have also played a major role in making certain that the SBIR participating agencies adhere to the spirit as well as the letter of the law when administering their respective SBIR programs, a function that is often challenging and at times not fully appreciated by all concerned. But we do appreciate your role and we are truly indebted to you for your vigilant oversight.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank you for your outstanding and innovative leadership in bringing on stream the ACE NET program that has made risk capital much more readily available for young, growing companies that have historically found it difficult to obtain equity monies. People in the public policy arena have debated for years how to facilitate access to early stage investment funds. Thankfully Advocacy decided to do something about this thorny problem by boldly moving forward and designing a nationwide angel investing network patterned after the highly successful pilot program designed by Bill Wetzel. You were able to corral the support of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the National Association of Securities Administrators, a phenomenal feat by itself. This watershed program will serve as a legacy to you and your Entrepreneur in Residence for years to come.

We trust that Congress will continue to recognize the value of your office and the indispensable role it plays in championing the cause of small business.

Sincerely,

Richard Carroll
President