



Women Construction Owners & Executives, USA

March 5, 2025

The Honorable Nydia Velázquez
Ranking Member, Small Business Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Velázquez:

On behalf of Women Construction Owners and Executives, celebrating its 40th Anniversary and Women in Construction Week, we write in support of a bill sponsored by you and passed by the House Small Businesses Committee, The WOSB Accountability Act. Importantly, this bill requires that only contracts awarded to women-owned small businesses that have been certified by the Small Business Administration (SBA) are included when calculating whether a federal agency has met its annual contracting goals. WCOE applauds you for your continuing leadership in ensuring federal contracts under the Women-Owned Small Business (WOSB) program are, in fact, awarded to bona fide women-owned firms. We appreciate the support and work of Chairman Williams, Rep. LaLota and the committee members to send this important bill to the floor of the House.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) Procurement Scorecard is intended to be a critical evaluation tool to gauge federal agencies' success meeting small business contracting goals, in general, and in the Women-Owned Small Business program, specifically. The annual Scorecard influences agency performance and has consequences for women-owned construction firms participating in the federal marketplace. A loophole in the law allows contractors and agencies to count WOSBs that are not certified by the SBA certification program to count toward their WOSB goals. This bill will ensure the program is assisting and empowering women-owned firm as intended. The goals have incentivized more women-owned firms to work with the federal government and contributed to their success when winning awards at the prime and subcontracting level.

WCOE has worked for years to support fair procurement processes under the WOSB program. The previous self-certification process led to uncertainty and fraud, benefiting those not genuinely women-owned. The WOSB Accountability Act will help ensure the government is counting true women-owned firms who are competing and winning contracts. It's time to further these goals.

Sincerely,

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**cc: Small Business Committee Chair Williams
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