

Congress of the United States
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Small Business
2361 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6515

February 27, 2026

The Honorable Ed Forst
Administrator
General Services Administration
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Administrator Forst:

I am writing to request that you take immediate action to protect small business government contractors from losing opportunities and being unfairly penalized as a result of recent and potentially erroneous actions by the Small Business Administration.

On January 28, 2026, the SBA announced that it had suspended 1,091 small businesses from the 8(a) Business Development Program for failing to submit certain information. Two days later, on January 30, 2026, SBA lifted the suspension of 220 of those firms—almost immediately reversing 20% of the announced suspensions. SBA then lifted the suspensions of another 60 firms on February 9, 2026—reversing over 25% of the announced suspensions in less than two weeks. These numbers continue to decrease as SBA takes remedial action, and this appears likely to continue even prior to more formal actions through the Office of Hearings and Appeals.

It is my understanding that GSA is quickly moving to place these small firms in “dormant status” on certain government-wide contracting vehicles. This allows a firm to continue and complete work on any previously awarded orders but prevents the firm from receiving awards of any new task or delivery orders. It is my understanding that this also prevents the firm from responding to solicitations and RFIs, or submitting proposals.

While I understand the need for these routine policies and procedures to address small business eligibility and program status, given the unique actions of SBA and the significant error rate in their suspensions, I urge you to consider and implement a short-term policy that will hold these small businesses harmless. A practical and temporary solution that, for example, maintains an 8(a) firm’s place on the contract until the time of award would achieve the same objectives.

Preemptively removing small businesses from contracting vehicles because of actions SBA is reversing a few days or weeks later, does not add value or reduce costs for the government; prevent or even relate to waste, fraud or abuse; or strengthen national or economic security, supply chains or the industrial base. It only imposes new, manufactured and unnecessary burdens on the government’s small business partners.

Pursuant to Rule X of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Small Business has broad authority to investigate “problems of all types of small business.” The Committee possesses jurisdiction over “assistance to and protection of small businesses.” Accordingly, I am requesting GSA take action to address this issue as soon as practicable—either through class deviations or other guidance—for GSA administered GWACs and other contracting vehicles, schedules or BPAs. Additionally, developing government-wide guidance ensuring small businesses at all federal agencies are not burdened with multiple, unnecessary resolution or appeal processes and agency unique burdens would be a productive step, if practicable.

The loss of a contracting opportunity—including task orders for which the firm has already expended significant B&P simply to be eligible to compete—may be a drop in the bucket for a large firm but can be detrimental to a small business. Given the serious and negative consequences these small firms are facing through no fault of their own and likely despite good faith efforts on their part to remedy SBA’s mistakes, I am hopeful that GSA will take urgent actions to address the issue. I would appreciate a response with GSA’s plans to do so, in writing or via briefing, as soon as practical but no later than COB March 5, 2026.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact the Committee’s Democratic staff at (202) 225-5821.

Thank you,



Nydia M. Velázquez
Ranking Member
Committee on Small Business