

July 9, 2025

The Honorable Nick LaLota

Chairman, Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Gil Cisneros

Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Subject: Statement for the Record – Hearing: "Leveling the Playing Field: The State of Small Business Contracting" (July 8, 2025)

Dear Chairman LaLota and Ranking Member Cisneros:

On behalf of Aleto Inc., an SBA-Certified small, disadvantaged business based in Arlington, Virginia, I am writing to express strong support for maintaining the SBA's longstanding "Rule of Two," which has served as a cornerstone of small business participation in federal contracting.

As a small business owner, I've witnessed firsthand how the Rule of Two ensures equitable access to federal contracting opportunities. It requires agencies to set aside at least two capable small businesses for fair market price acquisitions, reducing the likelihood they will bypass small business engagement. Without it, many of us would be systematically excluded from competing, not due to merit or capacity, but due to structural disadvantage.

Eliminating or weakening the Rule of Two would reduce competition and innovation in the federal space and deeply undermine the government's goals for small businesses. Set-asides are often the only viable entry points for businesses like mine to participate and grow in the wake of growing industry consolidation.

I urge the Subcommittee to protect and reaffirm the Rule of Two, ensuring any revisions to the FAR or acquisition policies don't diminish small businesses' role in federal procurement. It's not just a procedural rule; it's an economic engine that fosters entrepreneurship, creates jobs, and sustains local communities nationwide.

Thank you for your leadership and holding this critical hearing. We're grateful to advocate for the continued protection of small businesses' access to federal opportunities.

Sincerely,

Luis M. Viera

President, Aleto Inc.