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July 15, 2025

The Honorable Nick LaLota Chairman, Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Gil Cisneros Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

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 Engineering/Remediation Resources Group, Inc., I am writing to express my support for H.R. 2804, the "Protecting Small Business Competitions Act of 2025." Codifying the Rule of Two will both preserve small business competition and allow small business government contractors to successfully enter, compete, and remain in the industrial base. Small businesses are a necessary component of the industrial base that creates fundamental pricing competition across all sectors of the Federal government.

While the Rule of Two has been in place for decades and confirmed by the courts, we believe this legislation is necessary and timely to ensure the government's acquisition rules continue to allow small businesses to compete for and win a fair proportion of government contracts. In a marketplace that consistently uses large buying vehicles, protecting and empowering small businesses is good policy and essential for their continued participation. This bill:

- Maintains fair competition for small businesses by eliminating ambiguity in procurement practices, thereby enhancing their ability to succeed and stay active in the federal marketplace.
- Enhances competition and allows the government to recruit and retain the small enterprises that bring new solutions, innovation, and talent to government missions.
- Promotes economic growth by providing small businesses with predictability and stable revenue streams, helping them grow, hire, and contribute to the local economy.

Over the past 10 years, the number of small businesses winning federal contracts has decreased by 50 percent. Additionally, nearly 60 percent fewer small businesses are entering the federal marketplace. The Rule of Two is critical to preserving the small business industrial base and efforts to reverse this decline, as well as America's long-term economic resilience and competitiveness. We urge all Members of Congress to support its swift passage in both chambers.

Thank you for your consideration and continued efforts on behalf of the entire small business federal contracting community. Please contact me at cindy.liu@errg.com or 925-969-0750 with any questions.

Sincerely,

President and CEO