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Date: July 10, 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: Urging Protection of the Rule of Two and Federal Procurement Opportunities for Small Businesses

Dear Chairman LaLota and Ranking Member Cisneros:

My name is Tamieka Aaron, and I am the President and CEO of X & T Enterprise Company, a certified Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB), Economically Disadvantaged Woman-Owned Small Business (EDWOSB), and Minority-Owned Small Business. I am writing to express my strong support for continued protections and prioritization of small business contractors in the federal marketplace—particularly through the preservation of the Rule of Two and caution regarding the proposed FAR overhaul.

As a Black woman entrepreneur, I entered the federal contracting space with a vision to build generational wealth and community impact. After dedicating over 15 years to public service as a registered nurse, I made the difficult but purpose-driven decision to transition full-time into federal contracting to create sustainable opportunities—not only for myself, but for other

underrepresented entrepreneurs and workers in construction, janitorial, catering, and transportation services.

X & T Enterprise has worked diligently to understand and comply with the complexities of the federal procurement process. However, the current regulatory landscape already presents substantial barriers to small firms. The potential removal of the Rule of Two would only make it more difficult for small, woman- and minority-owned businesses to compete. This rule has been a critical safeguard to ensure that contracts are set aside for small businesses when at least two qualified firms can meet the requirements. Removing it would tip the scale even further in favor of large prime contractors, effectively silencing small, diverse businesses that are striving to grow and serve.

Furthermore, without the Rule of Two, agencies could bypass small business contracting goals and use full-and-open competition to justify sole sourcing to large firms. This would not only undercut the intent of the Small Business Act, but also hinder the economic mobility of those of us who have already overcome substantial obstacles to establish our businesses.

With an MBA in progress, a nursing degree, and a track record of service to veterans, seniors, and underserved populations, I represent just one of many determined and capable small business owners who rely on a fair and inclusive federal contracting environment.

I urge you to oppose any action that would remove or weaken the Rule of Two and to consider the very real impact these decisions have on the economic futures of small, minority- and woman-owned businesses across the country.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering this letter of support. I appreciate the Subcommittee's commitment to listening to small business voices during this crucial period.

Respectfully,

Tamieka Aaron

President & CEO

X & T Enterprise Company