



Venatore, LLC
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July 14, 2025

To: 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

Dear Chairman LaLota and Ranking Member Cisneros:

On behalf of Venatore, LLC, a proud small business committed to delivering essential support services to the federal government, I am writing to express our profound concern regarding any proposals aimed at eliminating or weakening the Small Business Act's critical "Rule of Two."

The Rule of Two has been an indispensable cornerstone of federal procurement policy for decades, safeguarding equitable opportunities for small businesses across the nation. It supports the growth, innovation, and competitiveness of America's small business industrial base - a base vital not only to national security but also to economic resilience and technological advancement.

Eliminating or weakening this rule would have immediate and detrimental consequences for small businesses like Venatore. Such action would significantly diminish our ability to fairly compete for federal contracts, accelerating the consolidation of government contracts among larger corporations and undermining federal government small business contracting goals. Moreover, it would discourage entrepreneurial efforts, reduce market diversity, and negatively impact overall economic growth.

The Rule of Two does not guarantee contracts - it guarantees opportunities. Venatore, along with many small businesses nationwide, has invested heavily in developing specialized capabilities, certifications, and proven performance records to effectively support government missions. These investments foster a competitive, diverse ecosystem essential for bringing innovative, efficient, and cost-effective solutions to the government. Without the Rule of Two, this thriving ecosystem faces significant risk.

Recognizing the urgency of protecting this vital procurement principle, Ranking Member Nydia Velázquez has introduced H.R. 2804—The Protecting Small Business Competitions Act of 2025. This legislation aims to codify the Rule of Two, ensuring it remains a mandatory and enforceable requirement for all federal agencies. H.R. 2804 will:

- Maintain fair competition for small businesses by eliminating ambiguity in procurement practices, strengthening their capacity to succeed and remain active in the federal marketplace.
- Enhance innovation and government effectiveness by ensuring that federal agencies can continue recruiting and retaining small enterprises that contribute fresh solutions, innovation, and critical talent to government missions.
- Promote economic growth and stability by providing small businesses with predictability and stable revenue streams, enabling them to expand, create jobs, and invigorate local economies.

Venatore proudly employs over 100 dedicated professionals, and our growth and success are partly attributed to the fair and equitable opportunities afforded by the Rule of Two. We strongly urge you and your colleagues to actively support and swiftly pass H.R. 2804, thereby preserving this essential principle for current and future generations of small business leaders.

Thank you for your steadfast leadership and unwavering commitment to America's small businesses.

Respectfully,

Maria V. Martinkov

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