

Editor's Note, 02/02/2012 – The ASBL has numerous campaigns to address fraud, abuse and loopholes in federal policy that allow large businesses to receive federal small business contracts.

The ASBL is currently circulating a comment in petition of a proposed interim rule that would amend the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) to make simplified acquisitions (those between \$3,000 and \$150,000) on GSA Schedules at the *discretion* of federal agencies. Our organization wants to begin by pointing out that Congress never authorized any procurement program to be exempt from the unambiguous intent of the Small Business Act, which clearly states that 'simplified acquisitions,' those between \$3,000 and \$150,000, *shall* be set aside for small business concerns. Follow this [link](#) to access a generic copy of the comment. Feel free to use any of our information or wording when submitting your own comment [here](#).

Here's a selection of the most recent press releases, blogs and news items that have been authored by the American Small Business League, mention the ASBL, or bring up pertinent small business issues:

Press Releases:

[Obama Ignores Small Businesses in State of the Union](#) – January 25, 2012:

Tuesday President Barack Obama delivered his third State of the Union address to an economically strained nation. At a time when the U.S. economy is in need of sweeping reforms, the President failed to mention rampant government contracting abuse that is costing the middle class upwards of \$100 billion annually. [More -->](#)

[Small Business Group Launches Campaign Opposing Obama's Plan to Wind Down Federal Small Business Programs](#) – January 16, 2012:

Today the American Small Business League (ASBL) is launching a national campaign to educate the media, the public and members of Congress about the negative ramifications of President Obama's plan to combine the Small Business Administration with the Department of Commerce, which will ultimately lead to the elimination of federal small business programs. [More -->](#)

[Obama Extends Program that Reduces Opportunities for Small Business](#)– January 2, 2012:

President Obama has extended a 21-year-old defense program that allows large defense contractors to withhold subcontracting information from the public, media and Congress. [More -->](#)

(click here to access our full press release archive)

Blogs:

[Washington and Banks Don't Understand Small Businesses Are the Engine of Economic Growth in America](#) – ASBL President and founder Lloyd Chapman, *Huffington Post*:

Let me give you some advice I have been giving to people for a decade: quit listening to what your politicians are saying and start watching what they are doing. [More -->](#)

[While We're Sitting on the Cabinet, Let's Bring Something to the Table](#) – ASBL President and founder Lloyd Chapman, *Huffington Post*:

Ms. Mills will remain on the president's cabinet only as long as the SBA is an agency-- and the announcement of Ms. Mill's elevation to the cabinet was precluded by a proposal to collapse the SBA and five other federal agencies into one. [More -->](#)

[Betrayed: Federal Audit Criticizes Small Business Administration for Excluding Small Businesses](#) – ASBL President and founder Lloyd Chapman, *Huffington Post*:

The Small Business Administration's Office of the Inspector General (SBA-OIG) released an [audit report](#) this month, criticizing the SBA's practice of misrepresenting the true percentage of federal small business contracts awarded. [More -->](#)

(click here to access Lloyd's blog archive)

ASBL in the News:

NY Times -- [Does SBA plan go far enough?:](#)

Advocates for small business - including those in Congress - are hearing mixed reactions to President Obama's proposal to temporarily elevate the Small Business Administration to a cabinet agency, but then fold the SBA into a super trade and commerce department. [More -->](#)

Huffington Post -- [Obama Plan: What do small business-advocates think?](#)

"Despite the President's lip service to small businesses in announcing his plan, it is unlikely to help job creators in any meaningful way. If the President really wants to help small businesses succeed, he can start by shrinking the agencies most responsible for standing in the way of their growth, such as the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Labor. Unfortunately, the President has consistently opposed meaningful regulatory reform, and we are skeptical that his plan to shrink the government will help tear down regulatory obstacles his agencies continue to impose." [More -->](#)

Bloomberg Business Week -- [Don't merge the Small Business Administration:](#)

Combining the federal agency with others means weakening the only government advocate for millions of small business owners. [More -->](#)

Reuters -- [Small businesses split over SOTU:](#)

Last night's State of the Union address from President Barack Obama left small business owners divided over his plans for economic recovery which included eliminating tax perks for companies that offshore jobs and beefing up training stimulus for technology jobs...

The American Small Business League declares Obama ignored the needs of small businesses; a major contributor to the economy as they create 90 percent of new jobs. The group that represents 98 percent of U.S. companies (those with fewer than 100 employees) takes particular issue with contract abuse which sees federal small business contracts being awarded to large businesses. This year that figure is over \$6.6 billion. [More -->](#)

Washington Post -- [Small business committees, advocates hesitant to back Obama's restructuring proposal](#)

Lawmakers and small business advocacy groups Friday applauded President Obama's decision to add a cabinet seat for the head of the Small Business Administration, but many were hesitant to back his broader proposal to restructure part of the federal government. [More -->](#)

NY Times -- [Among small-business advocates, reaction to President's plan is mixed](#)

Advocates for small business — including those in Congress — had near uniformly mixed reactions to President Obama's proposal Friday to temporarily elevate the Small Business Administration to a cabinet agency but then fold the S.B.A. into a super trade and commerce department. Uniformly mixed in that most people The Agenda contacted praised the decision to make the S.B.A. part of the cabinet but expressed caution about the consolidation proposal. [More -->](#)

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The American Small Business League is a non-partisan, independent, not-for profit small business advocacy organization.

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