

Dear Member,

A U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee **has removed the \$50 million** President Barack Obama had proposed for business incubation programs from its recommended FY 2010 budget.

We urge you to do two things *immediately* to help restore and protect these funds:

- 1) Contact your U.S. representatives and encourage them to restore the funding for business incubation programs in the House version of the FY 2010 budget. For contact information for your representatives, visit [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov).
- 2) Contact members of the Senate Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies to ensure that funding for business incubators remains in the Senate's budget. (See below for a list of subcommittee members; visit [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) for contact information for senators.)

We have attached template letters you can use for these purposes; the letters also are available for download at [www.nbia.org/works](http://www.nbia.org/works).

In his 2010 budget proposal, President Obama had included \$50 million for business incubation programs through the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration Economic Adjustment Assistance Program. Economic Adjustment Assistance funds are highly flexible and may be used for public works (bricks and mortar), loan funds, feasibility studies and incubator operations.

President Obama's 2010 budget was the first in which a U.S. president requested funding specifically for business incubation programs.

According to the *Congressional Quarterly*, funds "are not included for the proposed business incubator initiative [in the House version of the 2010 budget] as these activities are duplicative of programs administered by the Small Business Administration."

Call and write your congressional delegates today to urge them to protect funding for business incubators. Better yet, schedule a conversation with them to discuss why incubation programs are not duplicative with SBA activities and how business incubators provide the largest job creation impacts of any public works activities.

The U.S. Small Business Administration, which provides funding for SCORE and SBDC programs, has no business incubator funding program, and it doesn't provide sustained, intensive support to start-up and fledgling firms that create our nation's jobs and innovations.

Approximately 1,000 business incubation programs currently operate in the United States. We need to ensure that the investment in these programs is maintained and that high-functioning programs get support in these difficult economic times. But for this to happen, the proposed incubator funding must be protected during upcoming budget-cutting efforts in the Senate and supported during the reconciliation process when the House and Senate work to reconcile different versions of a 2010 budget.

For more information on these topics and information on exciting research showing the job-creating value of business incubators, template letters to Congress and your stakeholders, and

other resources, see [www.nbia.org/works](http://www.nbia.org/works). Also, for NBIA resources that can help you weather the recession, see [www.nbia.org/recession](http://www.nbia.org/recession).

Please alert us to your actions and support our efforts to promote business incubation.

Sincerely,

Dinah Adkins  
President & CEO

## **U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies**

### ***Democratic Subcommittee Members***

- Sen. Barbara Mikulski (Chairwoman) (MD)
- Sen. Daniel Inouye (HI)
- Sen. Patrick Leahy (VT)
- Sen. Herb Kohl (WI)
- Sen. Byron Dorgan (ND)
- Sen. Dianne Feinstein (CA)
- Sen. Jack Reed (RI)
- Sen. Frank Lautenberg (NJ)
- Sen. Ben Nelson (NE)
- Sen. Mark Pryor (AR)

### ***Republican Subcommittee Members***

- Sen. Richard Shelby (Ranking Member) (AL)
- Sen. Judd Gregg (NH)
- Sen. Mitch McConnell (KY)
- Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (TX)
- Sen. Sam Brownback (KS)
- Sen. Lamar Alexander (TN)
- Sen. George Voinovich (OH)
- Sen. Lisa Murkowski (AK)