

Dear Member,

Do you – like many of your peers at NBIA – want to ensure that business incubators are recognized in the current federal agenda? If so, we need your help *now*. Call and write members of your congressional delegation today to:

1. Request that Congress preserve the \$50 million for business incubation currently in President Obama's FY 2010 budget. These funds must be protected during congressional budget-cutting efforts. Ask that Congress ensure these funds are flexible enough to be used by existing business incubators hard-hit by local and state budget cuts, and not reserved *only* to develop new incubation programs.

The U.S. has approximately 1,000 business incubation programs. We need to ensure that the investment in these programs is maintained and high-functioning programs get support in these difficult economic times.

2. Urge Congress to pressure the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration to reduce the required local match on \$150 million in stimulus dollars (for which incubators are eligible) to a maximum of 25 percent. EDA is currently up for reauthorization by Congress, and many legislators are incensed that EDA is treating stimulus dollars designed to promote a rapid economic recovery as regular appropriations.

EDA is requiring up to a 50 percent match and looking at reduced match only on a "case-by-case" basis. This is not what the Obama administration intended, so we need your help to turn up the heat on EDA. The precedent for a much-lower match requirement already exists in EDA Disaster Assistance Funds available to ameliorate conditions in areas hard-hit by 2008 storms.

For more information on these topics, contact information for congressional representatives, information on exciting new 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). To watch a video of the EDA reauthorization hearing conducted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management earlier this month, see <http://transportation.house.gov/hearings/hearingDetail.aspx?NewsID=845>.

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

