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Press Release

For Immediate Release: February 26, 2010

## **CALL TO ACTION: CONTACT YOUR SENATORS**

# **Senate Introduces Legislation to Improve the HUBZone Program**

**WASHINGTON -- New legislation that will improve the HUBZone Program has just been introduced in the U.S. Senate and the HUBZone Council asks its member companies, and all HUBZone firms, to contact their Senators to urge its immediate approval.**

Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee Chair Landrieu (D-Louisiana), along with Ranking Member Snowe (R-Maine) introduced the HUBZone Improvement Act of 2010 (S. 3020). Joining Senators Landrieu and Snowe in sponsoring the bill are Senators Bond (R-Missouri) and Merkley (D-Oregon). The bill is designed to make several important improvements to the HUBZone Program.

"The HUBZone Improvement Act helps to create jobs and level the playing field for small firms by making sure the HUBZone Program works as intended," said Senator Landrieu.

"Let there be no doubt that, with the federal government contracting for over \$500 billion in goods and services in Fiscal Year 2009 alone, we must have a robust and transparent HUBZone Program for small businesses to continue generating jobs in our nation's most economically distressed communities," said Senator Snowe.

Senator Bond added, "I'm proud to join this bipartisan group of Senators to help small businesses continue to rebuild, revitalize, and bring hope to so many of our neighborhoods."

The new legislation comes on the heels of several Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports critical of the Small Business Administration's (SBA) oversight of the program, including control weaknesses that expose the program to potential fraud and abuse. **The bill compels the SBA to process applications for HUBZone certification and recertification within 60 days to avoid reporting delays to Congress.** In the recent past, applicants have had to wait for months to be processed.

**Also important for HUBZone firms: the bill extends a grandfathering period relating to the 2010 Census. A HUBZone-certified company will be 'grandfathered' in the HUBZone Program for three years from the date on which the SBA determines that its principal office is no longer located in a HUBZone area due to the results of the 2010 Census. This will provide the company adequate notice to relocate the office and remain certified.**

"The HUBZone Council is pleased to endorse the HUBZone Improvement Act of 2010 and its efforts to reform the HUBZone Program," said HUBZone Council Chair Ron Newlan. "Speeding up the application process and the Census

grandfathering provisions, in particular, will assist qualified HUBZone firms in complying with program certification requirements while contributing to the economic development of their neighborhoods. Approval of this bill is urgent and critical to the HUBZone Program."

CONTACT YOUR SENATORS TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO COSPONSOR THE BILL, WHICH IS VITAL TO THE LONG-TERM SUCCESS OF THE HUBZONE PROGRAM. Senators serving on the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship are the most critical votes but all Senators should support this effort to enhance the HUBZone Program, create jobs, and improve economic conditions in distressed areas.

[Contact your Senators today.](#)

[http://www.senate.gov/reference/common/faq/How\\_to\\_contact\\_senators.htm](http://www.senate.gov/reference/common/faq/How_to_contact_senators.htm)

### [Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship](#)

Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-Louisiana), chair - *bill sponsor*

Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-Maine), ranking member - *bill sponsor*

Sen. John Kerry (D-Massachusetts)

Sen. Christopher (Kit) Bond (R-Missouri) - *bill sponsor*

Sen. Carl Levin (D-Michigan)

Sen. David Vitter (R-Louisiana)

Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa)

Sen. John Thune (R-South Dakota)

Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Connecticut)

Sen. Michael Enzi (R-Wyoming)

Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Washington)

Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-Georgia)

Sen. Evan Bayh (D-Indiana)

Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Mississippi)

Sen. Mark Pryor (D-Arkansas)

Sen. James Risch (R-Idaho)

Sen. Ben Cardin (D-Maryland)

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-New Hampshire)

Sen. Kay Hagan (D-North Carolina)

For the complete text of the proposed bill,  
see [HUBZone Improvement Act of 2010.](#)

[http://sbc.senate.gov/public/?a=Files.Serve&File\\_id=4b0b81e9-562e-4af1-9e35-d0fb97399056](http://sbc.senate.gov/public/?a=Files.Serve&File_id=4b0b81e9-562e-4af1-9e35-d0fb97399056)

### ***About the HUBZone Council***

*The HUBZone Contractors National Council is a nonpartisan, volunteer membership, trade association that represents companies certified as HUBZone firms by the U.S. Small Business Administration. The HUBZone (Historically Underutilized Business Zone) Empowerment Contracting Program provides access to federal contracts to companies located in designated areas, often inner cities and rural regions, to promote job growth and prosperity in these locations.*

#### **HUBZone Contractors National Council**

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