



November 6, 2007

The Honorable John Kerry  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nydia Velazquez  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Olympia Snowe  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Steve Chabot  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Carl Levin  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ike Skelton  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John McCain  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Duncan Hunter  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Defense Authorization Act Conferee:

On behalf of the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), I am writing to urge you to not include provisions that would extend the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program's authorization in the Defense Authorization Act Conference Report. Specifically, I urge you to reject the two-year extension of SBIR included in the Senate Defense Authorization Act.

BIO's member companies support a complete re-examination and reauthorization of the SBIR program as soon as possible. We believe that a re-examination of the SBIR program, especially in light of the recommendations offered by the National Academies of Science reports on the program, will allow Congress to modernize the SBIR program and ensure that the program is able to achieve even greater levels of success.

The SBIR program was last reauthorized by Congress in 2000. As a strong supporter of this important program, I am concerned that a straight extension of SBIR authorization to September 2010 - as included in the Senate legislation - would undermine the incentive to consider legislation to modernize and strengthen the SBIR program in a comprehensive manner. America's innovative small companies, be they high-tech, biotech or otherwise, will benefit from the many modifications to the program that are already long overdue. Potential modifications to the SBIR program should not be delayed for yet another two years but should instead be considered by

Congress in the coming 10 months before the current SBIR authorization expires on September 30, 2008.

I certainly appreciate the concern that Congressional authorization for an important program such as SBIR cannot be allowed to lapse. However, it is my understanding that the House and Senate Committees on Small Business and the House Committee on Science and Technology are committed to passing a reauthorization bill in 2008. BIO and our more than 1,100 member companies and organizations stand ready to work with Congress to pass a complete reauthorization and modernization of the SBIR program in 2008.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Greenwood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

James C. Greenwood  
President and CEO  
Biotechnology Industry Organization