



May 15, 2012

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Ranking Member  
Senate Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs Committee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Keeping Politics Out of Federal Contracting Act

Dear Senator Collins:

The Coalition for Government Procurement strongly supports the Keeping Politics Out of Federal Contracting Act (S.1100). The legislation affirms that Federal contracts be awarded based on best value to the American taxpayer, without consideration of politics in the selection process.

The Coalition for Government Procurement ("Coalition") is a non-profit association of approximately 300 firms selling commercial services and products to the Federal Government. Our members collectively account for about half of the commercial item solutions purchased annually by the Federal Government. Our members include small, medium and large business concerns. We are proud to have worked with Government officials over the past 30 years towards the mutual goal of common sense acquisition.

The Coalition applauds your continued support of common sense procurement policy demonstrated in the Keeping Politics Out of Federal Contracting Act. The ultimate goal in the Federal procurement process is to obtain products and services that meet agency missions at the best value to the American taxpayer. The Coalition is concerned that requiring the disclosure of political contributions made to federal candidates, parties or party affiliates as part of the acquisition process will result in unintended consequences. While the disclosures may be intended to keep the awards process merit based, this practice would have the opposite effect by inserting political considerations into award selection.

Further, political disclosure will also reduce competition by creating the perception that awards will be made based on political affiliation rather than best value. Reduced competition means reduced value for the taxpayer. As such, the Coalition recommends that maintaining a clear separation between contract decision making and Government politics is critical to the sound management of the acquisition system and ensuring that Federal agencies and the American taxpayer receive the best value.

The Coalition sincerely appreciates your continued leadership on this issue and the opportunity to support the Keeping Politics Out of Federal Contracting Act. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (202) 315-1051 or [rwaldron@thecgp.org](mailto:rwaldron@thecgp.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RWaldron', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Roger Waldron

President