



June 22, 2011

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 of 2011

Dear Senator Collins:

The Coalition for Government Procurement sincerely appreciates your continued leadership and dedication to our Nation's acquisition system. We would like to offer our support for the Keeping Politics Out of Federal Contracting Act of 2011 (S.1100), as well as Section 847 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012. We believe that both are essential to keeping politics out of the procurement process.

The Coalition for Government Procurement ("Coalition") is a non-profit association of more than 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. The Coalition is proud to have worked with Government officials over the past 30 years towards the mutual goal of common sense acquisition. We believe that the passage of S.1100 or Section 847 would continue to promote this goal.

The Coalition is strongly opposed to inserting politics into our Federal acquisition system. Under the current draft Executive Order, businesses contracting with the Federal Government would be required to disclose political spending made to parties, or party affiliates, within the prior two years. The disclosure would include political donations made by the bidding entity, its officers and directors, or any affiliate or subsidiaries under its control.

Although the stated intent of the disclosure is to remove politics from the procurement process, the Coalition is very concerned that use of this information would have the opposite effect by injecting politics into government contracting. An anticipated impact would be a reduction in competition due to the potential harm that political affiliation could play in award selection. Our concern is that gathering this information would essentially lead to less value for the American taxpayer due to reduced competition.

The Coalition applauds your efforts to keep politics out of Federal contracting and welcomes the opportunity to work with you and other members of Congress on this issue. Once again, our sincere appreciation for your leadership.

Sincerely,



Roger Waldron

President