

Minority Business RoundTable

Upcoming Events

- May 2007, How to do business with the Department of Homeland Security
- Business to Business Match Making
- Top 25 Contractors participating

Inside this issue:

- New Political Landscape 2
- Democrat 2008? 3
- Minority Business Legislative Survey 3
- Legislative Forum Sponsors, Participating Organizations & Federal Strategic Partners: 4
- About MBRT 4

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MBRT Connected

January - February, 2007

Minority Business RoundTable

Policy & Politics: Minority Business Legislative Forum

February 15, 2007

Baltimore Convention Center

Baltimore, MD

Forum Agenda

2:30 pm – 5:30 pm Welcome and introduction
Roger A. Campos, CEO and President, MBRT
Joe McAvoy, Vice President, AEROTEK
Susan Traiman, Business Roundtable

Influencing Legislation: Top Issues Impacting Minority Businesses

- Moderator: Daniel Heath, Associate Director, White House National Economic Council
- Jacqueline Johnson, Executive Director, National Congress of American Indian
- Pete Homer, President, National Indian Business Association
- Stephen Denlinger, President & CEO, Latin American Management Association, (Procurement Advocate U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce)
- Margot Dorfman, CEO, U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce
- Leonard Greenhalgh, PhD, Professor of Management, and Director, Programs for Minority - and Women - Owned Business Enterprises, Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth
- Mark Hugo Lopez, PhD, Research Director, Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE), Research Assistant Professor, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland
- Scott Amey, General Counsel / Senior Investigator, Project On Government Oversight



Joe McAvoy VP, AEROTEK (Platinum Sponsor), addresses audience and Panel Members at the Legislative Forum.

MBRT invites National Trade Association Leaders to develop a national strategy on legislative issues and form a Coalition to advance common legislative agenda.

Baltimore, MD. – In connection with 3rd Annual Black CEO Summit at the Baltimore Convention Center, Minority Business RoundTable (MBRT) hosted over 100 advocates representing African American, Asian American, Hispanic American, Native American and Women - owned businesses in a dialogue to develop a national strategy on issues affecting their businesses. “Our message is that we are all working together to build

partnerships that create economic opportunity for all Americans. We seek to forge a better working environment and common sense approach to provide solutions to issues and challenges facing minority business owners and enact policies and legislation to spur our economic growth,” said Roger A. Campos President & CEO MBRT. “Small and minority trade groups can best advance their efforts under a coalition whose mission is to

communicate, educate and offer policy recommendations,” said Mr. Campos. The goals of the forum were to gather and exchange legislative agendas that impact minority business. MBRT urged all the leaders of minority advocacy and trade associations to join these efforts and support each other on common legislative issues.

Continue Forum Page 2

The New Political Landscape: Minority Congressional Members Charge up Capitol Hill

By Roger A. Campos

The 110th Congress has made history with the first woman of the House, Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Not only is Speaker Pelosi poised to shape the most pressing issues in the 110th Congress, but Democrats have flexed their muscles with key Committee Chairman assignments. Among the new leaders from the Black, Hispanic and Asian Caucus are:

- House Small Business Chair Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D-NY)
- Senate Commerce Chair: Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI)
- House Homeland Security: Bennie Thompson (D-MS)
- House Intelligence Chair: Silvestre Reyes (D-TX)
- House Ways & Means Chair: Charles Rangel (D-NY)

What does this mean for small and minority businesses? There are several key areas to look at in the coming year. There is bipartisan support and there could be a likely push to implement the President's Innovation and Competitiveness proposals which is backed by Democrats. Earlier this year, House Democrats announced that they would double the increase in spending in federal R&D, train more scientists

and engineers and provide more support for small businesses. Senator John Kerry who will head up the Senate Committee on Small Business has backed support for a stronger Small Business Administration which has been decimated by OMB and its funding cut in half since 2001. On the House side, Rep. Nydia Velazquez has been a staunch supporter of the SBA minority business programs. This dual political combination could result in increased funding for minority and women owned businesses which are growing three times faster and fueling the economic growth of this country. And, since the SBA Reauthorization Act is up for renewal, the minority business community could see some real gains in improvement in meeting the governments contracting goals. What is needed however, is a strong coalition of minority business groups working together today with Congress and the Administration that could dramatically improve prime contracting opportunities that have eluded SBA 8(a) Program companies since the early 1980's and the days of the Army's Pilot Program when companies could go after contracts without size limitations. MBRT will take the lead to bring these groups together for a common dialogue on ways to benefit each other and

work with Congress and the White House.

Other issues impacting businesses are Energy and Healthcare. We can expect the new leadership to try to repeal the tax subsidies for big oil companies and embrace energy independence and conservation proposals. This will be tough going as an army of energy lobbyists take on the Hill. Healthcare cost containment solutions are more complex and proposals to reduce costs most likely will be tied to reducing the number of uninsured workers in the United States. The powerful drug lobby will throw up barriers to block the Democrats promise to use Medicare's huge purchasing power to negotiate lower prescription prices for retirees. They will argue that there is general satisfaction among the 22.5 million "doughnut hole" subscribers. Any cost savings could be the Democrats signature domestic program for the next Congress.

And what about Immigration? The Republicans lost over 15% of the Hispanic vote in the mid-term elections after Hispanics conducted huge rallies across the country. The President's immigration reform proposal fell short on deaf Republican ears over security measures such as passing legislation to build a Billion dollar

fence to keep our Mexican neighbors to the South out. The Democrats will have to sort through this delicate foreign policy issue to enact meaningful immigration reform. And increasing the number of H-1B visas that allow skilled foreign workers here were rebuffed by Republicans. With business groups backing, Democrats have an improved chance to enact immigration and guest worker reform without a veto threat.

Other business issues looming on the horizon are Free Trade agreements which the Democrats have expressed concern over exportation of U.S. jobs being lost to foreign competitors, President Bush's advocacy for permanent Tax Cuts that Democrats have criticized, Social Security and Tort Reform and the Federal Deficit problem.

The War in Iraq: the voters handed a mandate to Democrats to begin a phased redeployment of U.S. forces from Iraq and for the Iraqis to take responsibility for the country. A bipartisan approach to pull out of Iraq may prove to be one of the stickiest issues in the new Congress and provide debate from Presidential hopefuls trying to launch their campaigns.

Forum Page 1. Among the top issues discussed were:

- Passing the Reauthorization of Small Business Administration legislation
- Raising the percent of federal contracts awarded to small and

minority businesses from 23% to 30%

- Provide adequate funding to the SBA for enforcement of regulations designed to protect small and minority businesses when competing for federal contracts

- Rollback contract bundling that negatively affects small and minority businesses

- Modernize the SBA 8(a) program

- Expand nationwide the Commercial Non-Discrimination Act recently enacted in the State of

Maryland.

MBRT intends to compile a list of the top minority business issues and distribute them to all minority trade associations, and forward recommendations to Members of Congress and the Administration.

Two Years Is Such A Short Time

Does a new Democratic Congress mean a Democrat in 2008?

By Richard Kerr

Washington, D.C. – The 2006 elections have left the Democrats in charge and Republicans still searching for an answer. As soon as the nation saw the outcomes and the power change, our eyes turned immediately towards November 4, 2008, only a short two years away.

In what is already proving to be an exciting and unpredictable

race, the 2008 election is still seen as wide open to several candidates. In one corner, we have the GOP team of high profile leaders who have proven themselves worthy in the past. In the opposing corner, the Blue

Democrats ready to make history with perhaps the first minority president and take the country back to the economic boom of the 1990's.

As of recent polls to date, the top Republican contenders are John McCain, Rudolph Giuliani, Mit Romney, dark horse Condoleezza Rice, and perhaps Newt Gingrich. The Democratic contenders are led by Hillary Clinton, dark horse Al Gore, John Edwards, and newcomers Barack Obama and Bill Richardson.

According to recent polls, although 48% of the public would prefer a Democratic President,

28% a Republican, and 20% are unsure, the Presidential race is still up for grabs. Minority business owners could be the swing vote and determine the next President. Where will minority business owners cast their vote? Contact us, tell us your views and join our coalition to increase funding for federal programs to help make your business grow. Without your active participation you will have no voice.

Minority Business Legislative Survey

Minority Business Legislative Survey was conducted from online registration and from the audience at the Forum.

1. Congress should fund a national survey of the 4.1 million minority businesses to understand what they offer, their needs and economic trends of this fastest growing business segment in the country?

- A. No - 6%
- B. Yes Lowest Priority - 9%
- C. Yes Moderate Priority - 24%
- D. Yes Highest Priority - 61%**

2. Congress should create access to capital programs and venture capital funds servicing more early and start up firms?

- A. No - 2%
- B. Yes Lowest Priority - 11%
- C. Yes Moderate Priority - 22 %
- D. Yes Highest Priority - 65%**

3. SBA's budget should be expanded to increase services and programs for minority businesses?

- A. No - 4%
- B. Yes Lowest Priority - 2%
- C. Yes Moderate Priority - 20%
- D. Yes Highest Priority - 74%**

4. Congress should enact stronger enforcement penalties against large businesses posing as small businesses?

- A. No - 7%
- B. Yes Lowest Priority - 4%
- C. Yes Moderate Priority - 15%
- D. Yes Highest Priority - 73%**

5. Congress should require Alaskan Native Corporations to receive 8(a) contract awards under the same dollar threshold criteria as other 8(a) companies?

- A. No - 17%
- B. Yes Lowest Priority - 17%
- C. Yes Moderate Priority - 44%
- D. Yes Highest Priority - 22%**

6. Congress should establish a new Pilot Program to increase the size of 8(a) contract awards

- A. No - 7%
- B. Yes Lowest Priority - 14%
- C. Yes Moderate Priority - 29%
- D. Yes Highest Priority - 50%**

7. Congress should enact size standards to reflect the number of employees (i.e, under 100) rather than dollar amounts?

- A. No - 19%
- B. Yes Lowest Priority - 9%
- C. Yes Moderate Priority - 39%
- D. Yes Highest Priority - 33%**

8. Should Congress increase individual net worth criteria used in 8(a) Programs eligibility currently at \$250,000 to \$750,000?



- A. No - 17%
- B. Yes Lowest Priority - 5%
- C. Yes Moderate Priority - 28%
- D. Yes Highest Priority - 50%**

9. What issues are important to your business in order of priority: Rankings

1. Affordable Healthcare
2. Educating your Workforce and Competitiveness
3. Fuel & Energy Cost
4. Social Security & Medicare Reform
5. Skyrocketing Insurance Policy Rate

6. Other Issues Identified:

Business Taxes, Global Warming, Access to Capital, Procurements - Government Contracting, 9 year 8(a) term vs. life time term, Minimum wage, Enforcement of general contractors to grant busi-

ness to minority in a timely manor, Alaskan Native Corporations and the 8(a) program, Help with protection from big business mistreating minority subcontractors.

11. Would you support the 110th Congress Bill H. R. 109 to amend the Small Business Act to allow service-disabled veteran-owned businesses to get into the SBA's 8(a) program without regard to their percentage of disability, their ethnicity or their personal net worth?

- A. Yes - 51%
- B. No - 49%

Legislative Forum Sponsors, Participating Organizations & Federal Strategic Partners:

Participating Organizations: National Congress of American Indians, Asian American Business Roundtable, President's Roundtable, National Minority Supplier Development Council, U.S. Indian American Chamber of Commerce, Minority Business Legal Defense Fund, U.S. China Corporate Council, U.S. Hispanic Youth Entrepreneur & Education Foundation, Women Impacting Public Policy, U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce, Project on Government Oversight, National Indian Business Association, Latin American Management Association, U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, University of Maryland, Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College and White House National Economic Council.

Federal Strategic Partners: U.S. Small Business Administration, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Department of Commerce

Platinum Sponsors:



St John's Press

Roger A. Campos has written an engrossing modern parable about a man's spiritual descent into hell and ultimate redemption. The writing style is excellent with prose, crisp and poetic. The story moves at a rapid pace to an emotional conclusion. This Rock Novel approach, with father writing and son singing, is the first of its kind in the publishing industry. Readers will be enchanted and absorbed in both the words and the music - Editor Robert Broomall.



**Author, Roger A. Campos
Song Writer, Jon Campos**

with the addition of pop/rock music to the scenes of the story. By playing the appropriate track of the CD when it appears in the text, the reader will actually hear the music when the characters do in the novel. Jon's sensitive style of music and inspirational lyrics bring Rogers words to life - President Gary G. Waitt.



Inca Gold Records

Roger and Jon Campos have created a whole new dimension

About MBRT:

The Minority Business RoundTable (MBRT) is a national nonprofit 501 (c)3 membership organization for CEO's of the nation's largest minority-owned companies. It functions as the vehicle for its members to analyze and help formulate effective public policies that impact minority-owned businesses. Membership is by invitation only. Members hold positions equivalent to chief executive officers (CEO) or chairperson in their respective businesses.



**Roger A. Campos
President and CEO**

Our Mission:

Is to promote, support and advocate for our members and their respective industry. Our corporate members work to create sustainable communities and national economic viability. MBRT fulfills its mission of service to its members by providing advocacy, networking, policy initiatives, and strategic partnerships. We are committed to taking minority businesses to another level.

"Events like the Minority Business RoundTable Summit help create a dialogue to ensure that the issues facing minority business owners will be solved. These companies have the power to grow the economy, and with our help, they will succeed. I applaud the MBRT's efforts in supporting the entrepreneurial spirit of our country's entrepreneurs. We look forward to continuing our work together." -- *House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi*



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another level*

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