

Minority Business RoundTable

Upcoming Events:

- **White House luncheon and briefing**
December 1, 2006
- **MBRT Board Meeting**
December 1, 2006

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MBRT Connected

July - August, 2006

MBRT Makes Presence Known on Capitol Hill

Washington, D.C. - The Minority Business RoundTable has recently stepped up its appearance and influence on Capitol Hill. New contacts have been made in several key Senate and House offices to develop strong relationships so the minority business community has a stronger voice in

Congress. Roger A. Campos, President & CEO of MBRT, emphasized "It's important that Congress realizes that minority businesses are growing three times faster than non-minority business. They now number over 4 million businesses employing over 5 million Americans and have com-

bined sales exceeding \$600 billion."



Capitol Hill has been buzzing about small and minority business

Congress Wraps Up Last Week of Business

Pension & Estate Tax Bills Pass, Oil Drilling Now in Motion

Washington, D.C. - Congress was in its usual mad dash to finish business and introduce new bills before the start of the summer recess August 4th. The Senate on Thursday approved and sent to President George W. Bush legislation to shore up beleaguered corporate pensions and stabilize the deficit ridden federal program that insures them. Lawmakers voted 93-5 to clear the measure, which was identical to a bill approved last week by the House of Representatives. Sen. Mike Enzi, a Wyoming Republican who led months of difficult House-Senate negotiations that hammered out the main provisions said the bill would serve as a foundation for retirement security for mil-

lions of Americans. The legislation overhauls pension funding rules and closes loopholes that allow companies to claim their pensions are financially sound even though some plans carry staggering liabilities, reported the Washington Post. Another large bill passed in the final week was the offshore drilling bill. By a vote of 71-25 Tuesday, the Senate passed a bill directing the Interior Department to begin selling leases for oil and gas development in 8.3 million acres of the east-central Gulf of Mexico _ about 100 miles from the nearest land and 125 to 310 miles from Florida beaches. Moving toward a month long summer recess, the Senate still faces a rush of business including ap-

proval of a \$444.6 billion Pentagon funding bill that also has an additional \$50 billion for the Iraq war. GOP leaders also hoped to vote Friday on a bill that would both raise the minimum wage and make permanent a cut in the estate tax while extending a variety of popular tax breaks such as deductions for college tuition. Democrats are trying to block the tax-wage bill, arguing the two issues should not be combined. Congress seemed to be more urgent the final week of session and the public hopes the momentum carries through the recess.

Immigration Reform Debate

Sponsored by the Tomas Rivera Policy Institute

Washington, D.C. - On June 7th, three panels each consisting of three professionals gathered at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Capitol Hill to discuss and debate the current dynamics of Latino political engagement. Highlights of the sometimes heated debate came from Senator Ken Salazar (DCO) warning of the immigrants

“dying to live” when they cross the Mexican border into the harsh climates of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas deserts for a chance to live the “American dream.” Salazar, who along with John McCain was a key Senator in drafting the bill, urged Latinos to become involved in politics and register to vote. He wanted to awaken the

“sleeping giant of the Latino Community.” There are an estimated five million Latinos who could have voted in the 2004 elections but did not. The mass immigrant demonstration marches of the past spring were a topic of debate with the pro-Latino panelists pointing out that they were all peaceful, much larger than

anyone expected, and showed the willingness of immigrants to organize and accomplish tasks. Mr. Mark Kikorian from the Center of Immigrant Studies declared that the marches almost assured that no bill would be passed anytime soon and that the immigrants were “another grievance organization”.

Steven Preston Takes Reigns of SBA

Takes the oath of office from Vice President Cheney.

Washington, D.C.—Steven Preston was sworn in on July 26th as SBA Administrator by Vice President Richard Cheney at a ceremony attended by MBRT President & CEO Roger Campos. Mr.

Preston has an impressive resume in the private sector. During Senate confirmation hearing Mr. Preston made it clear why he wanted the position. “Very simply, I believe in the value of public

service and would like the opportunity to serve in a capacity that is relevant, that I am passionate about, and that draws on the competencies I have developed over almost 25 years in financial and opera-



tional leadership positions.” His leadership will be critical this Fall as Congress deals with SBA Reauthorization and Appropriations.

MBRT Add Summer Staff

Two New Interns Take On Washington



Richard Kerr

Washington, D.C.— New faces can be seen in the offices of the Minority Business Round-Table this summer. Richard

Kerr has taken the title of Coordinator of Government Affairs and can be seen running to every corner of Washington for meetings and symposiums. He has made contacts for MBRT on Capitol Hill, written position papers, press releases, and event summaries. Richard

is currently a Junior International Business major and Accounting minor at Georgia College & State University in Milledgeville, Georgia. “I have fallen in love with Washington and politics this summer,” Kerr said. “My job has been fun to wakeup to everyday because I do not know what to expect that day. I could be in a Senator’s office, be in the Capitol, meeting with company

presidents, or in the office. Its been incredible working for MBRT this summer.” Laurel Singleton, from Flagler University in St. Augustine, Florida, has also joined the staff as an executive assistant. She has been the go to person for almost anything the office has needed. She has split her time between MBRT and the United States Hispanic Youth Entrepreneur Education

foundation working hard on this year’s Maryland Hispanic Youth Symposium. MBRT is also hiring three volunteers for media and administrative work.



Laurel Singleton

“I have fallen in love with Washington and politics this summer.” Richard Kerr

“REAC” Havoc to Lower Energy Costs

MBRT Addresses Rising Energy Costs on the Hill

Washington, D.C. – The Minority Business Roundtable is urging Congress to stand up to the tough challenge of dealing with enormous rises in energy costs. Research, Education, and Conservation (REAC) are the three keys to lowering energy costs and saving businesses millions on rising electricity and natural resource expenditures. The government should set targets for increased conservation of all natural resources, particularly petroleum. Also, government investments in clean coal facilities, increased nuclear power, and increased solar, wind, and hydro powers are ways to conserve and invest in energy. Encouraging development of unconventional domes-

tic petroleum sources such as shale oil, natural gas hydrates and coal-to-liquids will increase domestic supply and decrease dependency on foreign oil. The government must increase construction and modernization of critical infrastructure for reliable and efficient movement of fuels, which will save millions of dollars in wasted transportation costs. Promoting new technology research with tax incentives is vital to the future of the United States. Inadvertent obstacles to research of new energy need to be removed.

Finally, it is up to the government to create strategic bi-lateral and multi-lateral relationships with energy producing and

consuming nations to diversify, supply, and enhance global energy security. We must be on good terms with petroleum rich countries in order for the United States to avoid an energy shortage.



Wind Energy is one important renewable source

House Trying to Put Small Business as “ACE” Up Their Sleeve

New “ Access to Capital for Entrepreneurs” Bill Proving Very Popular

Washington, D.C. – The U.S. House of Representatives is pushing hard for the passage of a new bill that will help small businesses around the country attract private investors. H.R. 5198, the Access to Capital for Entrepreneurs (ACE) Act, provides a mechanism for our nation’s small businesses to obtain critical equity funding by establishing a tax credit to the individuals and partnerships most likely to provide equity funding to our nation’s early stage companies. On July 25th, Chairman Manzullo of the House Small Business Committee hosted a meeting to gain support from groups around Washington to help push the bill.

Also presenting at meeting was John Westmoreland, staff director for the Small Business Committee, Ann Sullivan of Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP), and Susan Preston of the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. Chairman Manzullo said he was surprised and pleased with the amount of publicity this bill has received and said it is a great move to help small businesses, especially since with a tax credit there is no government program and the private sector can do what it does best. Ms. Preston emphasized the strong positive response to the bill recalling the “overwhelming and ecstatic response to the bill at

the National Angel Investor Convention in New York and again in Philadelphia.” Ms. Preston said the bill is needed because of the defined gap between Angel Investors and Venture Capitalist. VC’s invest a minimum of around \$6 or \$7 million while the maximum for Angel’s is between \$500,000 and \$1 million. Preston described the potential investors in the United States as enormous with the ratio of current Angel Investors to potential as 1:10. They just need this tax break incentive to become active. WIPP has made passing this bill their top priority and are putting together a coalition to lobby Congress. Ms. Sulli-

van also described the great benefits of the bill and said WIPP had taken such a great interest because this will help current women business owners who only receive 4%-7% of VC’s. She continued saying, “Minority and women businesses are growing at record numbers but still struggle with access to capital.” The bill allows a tax credit of 25% of the amount invested into a qualified small business by an accredited investor. The definition for an accredited investor is anyone with \$1 million in net worth or with an income of \$200,000 in the two most current years with reasonable expectations of the same income level.

MBRT Urges Congress to Act on Health Care

45 Million Americans Still Uninsured

Washington, D.C.- The Minority Business Roundtable has several concerns about the current health care system for its members. While many Congressional resolutions and suggestions have been put forth to improve our health care, not enough emphasis is placed on the urgency to make changes nor on the minority communities which are the most in need of better health services. The best health care in the world is found in America, but our method for providing that great care is very inefficient and wastes millions of dollars. Five consecutive years of double-digit premium in-

creases have hit the business community hard, especially small firms. An estimated 45 million Americans lack health insurance. For minority firms, the increase in coverage of health insurance is crucial. Nationally, 11.6 percent of the Anglo population, 20.1 percent of the African American population and 34.8 percent of the Hispanic population are without health insurance. A main step is encouraging Congress to pass the Health IT bill, which through better record keeping and efficiency, can save the health care system up to \$140 billion and provide health care for an extra 34

million Americans with the saved money. 60% of uninsured Americans, are employed by small businesses. Small Business Health plans would allow small businesses to join together and negotiate lower premiums. It has passed the House several times but has been stalled for a decade in the Senate and continues to be stalled since the bill was voted down on May 11. Republicans want Health Savings Accounts and Small Business Health Plans, while Democrats want a federally directed association of small businesses to negotiate health care costs. The Republicans will not vote on a bill

to give the Federal Government more power and the Democrats believe the HSA's and SBHP's will not fix the problem. There are a variety of options to fix the increasingly complex U.S. health system. Congress must be urged to introduce legislation with a quickness that will help minority businesses and all Americans get the coverage they deserve.

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.

SAVE THE DATE
DECEMBER 1, 2006
WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING,
LUNCHEON, AND BOARD
MEETING



Minority Business
RoundTable

*Taking your minority business to
another level*

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