

**Minority
Business
RoundTable**

**Upcoming
Events**

**MEDWeek25
25th Anniversary**
September
13-14, 2007
Washington, DC

**Opportunity
Conference 2007**
U.S. Department
of Labor
September 18,
2007 Grand Hyatt
Washington D.C.

Inside this issue:

MBRT Supports 2
Automatic IRA Bill

MBRT and DHS 2
Hosts 50 CEO's

Policy & Politics 3
**National Legislative
Issues Brief**

MBRT Joins Energy 3
Coalition

MBRT CEO's 4
**Attend National
Congress of
American Indians
Mid-Year Summit**

About MBRT 4

MBRT
1717 K Street, N.W., Suite
600
Washington, DC 20036
202-289-8881
rogercampos@mbrt.net
www.mbrt.net

MBRT Connected

March - June, 2007

Building Partnerships with Native Americans

MBRT President Speaks at – National Native American Economic Policy Summit in Phoenix, Arizona May 16, 2007

On May 16, 2007 Roger A. Campos President & CEO of MBRT was invited to be a key note speaker along with Carl Artman Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior with Joe Garcia, President, National Congress of American Indian (NCAI) luncheon at NCAI's National Native American Economic Policy Summit May 15-17, 2007 in Phoenix, Arizona.

At the Summit, Mr. Campos recognized MBRT Board Member Bart Garber, CEO of Tyonek, a Native Alaskan Tribe and an 8 (a) contractor. He spoke about building partnerships with Native American organizations, trade associations and business owners in order to have a stronger voice in Congress. Mr. Campos called for the need to reform the 8 (a) program to increase the size standard, net worth provisions, contracting limits



(L-R) Roger Campos, Joe Garcia



(L-R) Roger Campos, Carl Artman, Joe Garcia

and reform the protest system so when a firm wins, they accurately receive a contract or money damages instead of a nod of approval from the judge. "We need to increase SBA lending authority and micro loans so more dollars are available to our communities", he said.

The National Native American Economic Policy Summit focused on generating proactive economic policies that will make a real difference for Native economics. The Summit provided a forum for frank dialogue about how Federal Agencies, Tribal Governments, National Indian organizations, private enterprise, and individual Indian Entrepreneurs can work together to address the existing economic barriers hampering development for American Indians and Alaska Native people.

Minority Business Roundtable (MBRT) hosts 50 CEO's with the Department of Homeland Security

On May 22, 2007 MBRT hosted a One on One Business Match Making with top Department of Homeland Security officials and representatives of Prime contractors.

Kevin Boshears, Director of

Small of Disadvantage Business at DHS presented a morning session on "How to do Business with DHS". The keynote luncheon speaker was Elaine Duke, Director of Procurement for the agency. The afternoon

session consisted of a One on One Business Match Making with DHS officials representing Customs and Border Protection, Transportation Security Administration, Federal Emergency, **DHS Page 2.**

MBRT Supports Automatic IRA Bill - Joins Brookings Institute and AARP

S.1141 will help millions of Americans save for retirement.

-- MBRT joins retirement security project Brookings Institute and AARP in support of IRA Bill

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senators Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) and Gordon H. Smith (R-OR) today introduced legislation aimed at ensuring more Americans save for their retirement years.

The Senators, both members of the Senate Finance Committee, are the author of the “Automatic IRA Act of 2007” – bill that requires companies with more than 10 employees to offer workers the ability to have wages remitted to an IRA account. The bill does not require employers to contribute to these accounts, and it provides them with a tax credit to offset administrative cost. Although the program is automatic, employees can opt out.

Nearly half of Americans



Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM)

workers – an estimated 75 million – currently lack access to an employer-sponsored saving plan. This bill, which is based on a proposal developed by the Retirement Security Project, will extend payroll-based saving opportunities to those not currently covered.

“The legislative will change the way Americans save and will impact moderate and lower wage employees, especially Hispanic and other minorities,” said Roger A. Campos, MBRT President & CEO. “Every business owner wants to take care of their employees and build better workspace.”

The proposal has won strong support from both sides of the Hill, small and minority-owned businesses and from groups such as AARP, Brookings and the Heritage Foundation.

According to Luis Borunda, CEO of The Signman, Inc. and a member of the Minority Business RoundTable, which represents CEO’s of the leading minority-owned businesses in America, “The Automatic IRA will help small business leaders like myself encourage retirement saving among those who need it the most, particularly our low-to-moderate-income workers. By making the process as simple as a payroll deduction, removing fiduciary responsibility, and providing a small tax credit to offset administrative costs, this policy provides a competitive advantage for the small and minority-owned business community”

“Our goal is introducing this bill is to ensure that all Americans have easy access to a retirement account and the

ability for part of their wages to go directly from their paycheck into this account,” noted Senator Bingaman. “Small businesses are already swamped with paperwork and automatic IRA payroll deductions make saving easy for



Senator Gordon H. Smith (R-OR)

both workers and employers” said Senator Smith.

Only 1 in 10 eligible individual contribute to an IRA now. The Retirement Security Project estimates that the Automatic IRA could increase participation rates significantly and ultimately, could increase net national saving by nearly \$8 billion annually.

Minority Business Roundtable (MBRT) Hosts 50 CEO’s with the Department of Homeland Security

DHS Page 1.

Management Agency, DHS Headquarters and DHS Mentoring Protégé programs. Top DHS Primes represented included: Northrop Grumman, CACI, KBR, Harris Corporation, ST.NET, Aero-tek, SAIC, Dynamic Research and Lockheed Martin.



Here is what one new MBRT member said about the event: “We are happy to be associated with your organization and look forward to continue to support your efforts. The benefits from this event were: great informa-

tion, great potential teaming partners, and great opportunity to find new subcontractors, as well as, prime contractors”.

An official from the Department of Commerce added: “Roger, this was a great event”.



MBRT Policy Issues Brief Developed at the Policy & Politics National Legislative Forum

Minority Businesses represent a small but growing portion of businesses in America. According to U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau 2002 Survey of Business Owners, minority owned firms have grown 35% from 1997 to 2002 and represent 4.1 million or 18% of all us firms. In total, they represent combined gross sales of \$668 billion dollars and employed 4.7 million workers.

Minority owned businesses face a multitude of challenges that are shaped by federal, state and local public policies. In a meeting convened by the Minority Business RoundTable (MBRT) on February 15, 2007 at the Baltimore Convention Center, over 100 minority CEOs and advocates came together to discuss the policy issues that are of greatest importance to their firms. According to the panelists representing the White House, national minority trade associates and universities, the top issues of concern to minority businesses are as follows:

1. Reauthorization of Small Business Administration (SBA) legislation – MBRT supports the reauthorization of SBA legisla-

tion. However, while MBRT supports SBA reauthorization, the current shape and form of the SBA will need an extensive overhaul. Specifically, the reauthorization of SBA legislation should address these issues:

a. Modernize the 8a program: increase size standards, net worth criteria, increase contract limitations from \$3 million to \$10 million for services and \$5 million to \$20 million for manufacturing.

b. Provide for more assistance and guidance to small businesses, especially in the provision of loans, micro loans and venture capital.

c. Enforce and expand federal contracting activities in areas of potential contract abuse: big business passing as small businesses, reform protest burden of proof procedures and require primes to adhere to subcontract plans (count actual dollars received by small and minority businesses rather than amounts awarded).

2. Federal contracting – A small number of minority firms have benefited from their relationships

with the federal government. We need to provide opportunities for more businesses to participate in the federal pipeline. Many aspects of federal procurement policy need to be changed to improve the growth prospects of minority owned small businesses. MBRT supports proposals to increase the percentage of all federal contracts awarded to small and minority owned businesses from 23% to 30%.

3. Controlling the cost of Health care – Many minority small business owners list this as a top three concern, and a number one cost pressure. The spiraling cost of health care has limited the growth potential of small and minority businesses. Providing tax breaks for small businesses to addresses spiraling health care costs is a top priority.

4. Collecting better data on small and minority businesses – MBRT and its members support better data collection efforts on the characteristics of small and minority businesses. Especially minority owned businesses that lag in census bureau tracking. Only with better and regular data collection efforts can more effective policy be crafted and imple-

mented.

5. Providing Affordable and Reliable Energy – Affordable and reliable supplies of energy are an important concern of minority owned small businesses. This is especially true today as prices of all forms of energy are higher, and rising. Compared to 10 years ago, the instability in energy prices adversely impacts the growth plans of small businesses. Working for an affordable and stable supply of energy is a top concern of many minority owned small businesses.

6. Sustaining world technological leadership – MBRT and its members support continued improvement of the U.S. educational system. In many respects, large numbers of America's youth are not receiving the educational resources needed to be valuable contributors to the U.S. economy. This negatively impacts small businesses, which does not have the ability to do any off shore outsourcing like larger firms.

For the complete brief go to our web site

www.mbrt.net

MBRT Joins Energy Coalition to Formulate Sound Energy Policy

Washington, D.C. – MBRT joined in the launch of The Energy Initiative Coalition, under the leadership of former Senator John Breaux of Louisiana and former Mayor Beverly O'Neill of Long Beach, California with representatives of 31 trade association member organizations. "This is the first time that a coalition of minority businesses represented by MBRT, energy consumers, corporations and energy producers, have come together educate the public and make recommendations for America's energy challenges" said Roger A.

Campos, President & CEO.

"Washington needs a different type of coalition, not just another coalition..." said former Senator John Breaux. "Washington doesn't need another energy group, but it needs a different energy initiative. And that's what separates this one from the rest."

"Solving our country's issues of over-consumption of energy and excessive dependence on oil by discovering new solutions for more efficient and environmentally friendly energy policies is

critical to consumers and sustaining business growth while enhancing the quality of life for our communities," said Campos.

The primary goal of this coalition is to formulate ideas for a sound energy policy through the cooperation and consensus of the energy producers, energy consumers, and environmental groups. The Minority Business RoundTable, the only member organization representing minority owned businesses of the coalition, will be in a working group charged with reviewing the major

challenges, current policy impediments, market restraints and other barriers in addressing its responsibility to work toward developing policy recommendations for consideration by the full membership. The Energy Initiative will be considering a broad range of recommendations such as research in alternative energy, grants, contracts, tax and other incentives to promote renewable energy and conservation. Over the next year, the group will be submitting its findings to the American public.

MBRT CEO's Attend Mid-Year Summit: National Congress of American Indians Strengthening Economics & Culture, June 10-13, 2007, Anchorage, Alaska

Bart Garber, CEO Tyonek Group and MBRT Board Member says "the Small Business Administration's 8(a) program has been one of the most successful economic development tools for both Native American Tribes and Native American individuals". Tribes utilize the SBA's government sole source contracting program as a primary source of revenue to develop essential jobs and economic growth and diversify their business enterprises to supplement their Tribal programs. This economic development session focused on opportunities for Native American businesses in government contracting as well as proposed reform measures and its potential impact on economic development throughout Indian Country. "It is important that Native American businesses and MBRT members work together to develop business opportunities and partnerships in order to win larger government contracts" said Roger Campos, President & CEO of MBRT.

MBRT 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*



Minority Business RoundTable

Taking your minority business to another level

1717 K Street, N.W.,
Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20036

Phone: 202-289-8881
Email: rogercampos@mbrt.net
www.mbrt.net