

**U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
SMALL BUSINESS COUNCIL**

MAXINE TURNER
CHAIR
SMALL BUSINESS COUNCIL

TOM SULLIVAN
VICE PRESIDENT
SMALL BUSINESS POLICY

January 30, 2017

The Honorable Jim Risch
Chairman
Committee on Small Business
and Entrepreneurship
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member
Committee on Small Business
and Entrepreneurship
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Risch and Ranking Member Shaheen:

Last week's hearing considering Linda McMahon's nomination to lead the U.S. Small Business Administration highlighted just how important the health of America's small business community is to the strength of the American economy. As the owner of Cuisine Unlimited, based in Salt Lake City, and as Chair of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Small Business Council, I call on Congress to explore the ways to grow the economy, and recognize the key role small businesses play as part of the engine for economic growth. We look forward to working with Linda McMahon, should she be confirmed, and the entire SBA team.

The path for America to uplift communities, spur innovation, and create jobs depends on, among other things, improving the environment for startups and "Main Street" small businesses. More than two-thirds of the net new jobs during the last two decades have been created by small businesses, and the 62 million people employed at small firms represent approximately half of the private sector workforce. Simply put, small business owners are the job creators, innovators, and community leaders who make key contributions to the economic engine of America

The Chamber is the world's largest business federation. We represent the interests of more than three million businesses and organizations, the majority of which are small firms. In fact, approximately 96 percent of Chamber member companies have fewer than 100 employees – approximately 75 percent have fewer than ten. The Small Business Council works to ensure that the views of small business considered as part of the Chamber's policy-making process.

The Chamber looks forward to working with you, the entirety of Congress, and the new Administration to focus on economic and job growth. The Chamber's agenda of comprehensive tax, regulatory, and healthcare reform, expanding opportunities for American businesses trading overseas, removing barriers to capital and domestic energy production, and creating a more competitive workforce are all critically important priorities for small businesses. I hear about these issues every day as Chair of the Chamber's Small Business

Council and we were pleased that Linda McMahon expressed the importance of all of these issues during her nomination hearing.

Based on her track record of growing a small business into a global powerhouse, her strong leadership qualities, and her willingness to step back from her successful enterprise to serve in the Administration, we believe Linda McMahon will be a strong champion of America's small businesses if confirmed as Administrator. Thank you for considering our views and we look forward to working with you and with Linda McMahon on important issues that impact America's small businesses.

Sincerely,



Maxine Turner



Tom Sullivan

cc: Members of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship