GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS FOR SMALL BUSINESS

We applaud the President for elevating the position of Administrator of the United States Small Business Administration (SBA) to cabinet level. We welcome any opportunity to have a “seat at the table.”

At the same time, we are disappointed with the President's proposal to merge the SBA with some Commerce Department agencies. One thing we will stake our 35 year history on is that when it comes to federal programs, “one size does not fit all.” The truth is that it takes persistence and patience to nurture our small business sector, and it requires unique programs and attention.

This debate is a road we have traveled before. The amount of federal dollars devoted to small business is modest by any measure. Let’s at least keep it focused on the objective and that is best accomplished by keeping the small business programs on the radar screen on their own.

The Small Business Legislative Council is a 35 year old permanent, independent coalition of over 50 trade and professional associations that share a common commitment to the future of small business. Our members represent the interests of small businesses in such diverse economic sectors as manufacturing, retailing, distribution, professional and technical services, construction, transportation, and agriculture. Our policies are developed through a consensus among our membership. Individual associations may express their own views.