

Joseph D. Morelle  
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Committee on Rules  
Committee on Budget  
Committee on Appropriations



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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 19, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nydia Velázquez  
Chairwoman, Small Business Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2302 Rayburn House Office  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Blaine Luetkemeyer  
Ranking Member, Small Business Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2230 Rayburn House Office  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Chairwoman Velázquez; and Ranking Member Luetkemeyer,

As you negotiate legislation to deliver continued funding for Fiscal Year 2023, I urge you to consider supporting efforts to incorporate authorizations for an extension, limited or permanent, of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs beyond the current September 30, 2022 statutory deadline. Even a finite extension would provide additional time for ongoing discussions related to a larger revision of the SBIR and STTR programs without impacting critical innovation efforts imperative to our national security.

These programs are critical to the research and development programs of 11 federal agencies and provide much needed funding for hundreds of innovative small businesses across the country. The SBIR and STTR programs help maintain our competitive edge over our strategic competitors, create jobs, and advance the commercialization of American ingenuity.

Historically, because both Democrats and Republicans have long understood the vital role small businesses play in our nation's technological advancements, the SBIR and STTR programs have been routinely extended with bipartisan support. Now, more than ever, we need to bolster our small business community and ensure our innovative capabilities are thriving.

As discussions related to a larger review and revision of the SBIR and STTR programs continue, I believe an expiration or lapse in authorization and funding for SBIR or STTR programs would be catastrophic to America's technology ecosystem and national security. In the face of such a lapse, the Department of Defense and other participating agencies would cease SBIR and STTR funding of new or ongoing projects and end broad agency announcements that advertise opportunities to small businesses seeking to innovate for U.S. interests. This reality would not only end all award processes and place heavy financial burdens on industry but also place our national security at greater risk. Including authorization for a short-term extension of the SBIR and STTR programs in any legislation to fund the upcoming Fiscal Year to include a continuing resolution will provide the appropriate committees with more time to complete their negotiations and ultimately ensure the long-term success of the programs.

I appreciate the diligence and hard work the House and Senate Small Business Committees have displayed in resolving this issue and I look forward to long-term extension. However, with the deadline fast approaching, an extension, limited or permanent, may be necessary to prevent an immediate lapse in funding which would only hurt American small businesses whose innovative work bolsters our economic and national security.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration of our request on behalf of our national security communities and small businesses nationwide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph D. Morelle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress

cc:  
House Committee on Appropriations