

March 4, 2021

The Honorable Ben Cardin  
Chair, Committee on Small Business  
and Entrepreneurship  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Rand Paul  
Ranking Member, Committee on Small Business  
and Entrepreneurship  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Nydia Velazquez  
Chair, Committee on Small Business  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Blaine Luetkemeyer  
Ranking Member, Committee on Small Business  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Cardin, Chairwoman Velazquez, Senator Paul, and Congressman Luetkemeyer:

As executives at small businesses supporting government agencies through federal contracts and sub-contracts, we are writing to request that you support the extension of authorities provided by Section 3610 of the CARES Act (P. L. 116-136) through September 30, 2021 in the pending pandemic relief legislation, through stand-alone legislation, or in the next suitable legislative vehicle. Without this extension, these critical authorities will expire on March 31, 2021.

Section 3610 authorizes federal agencies to use existing appropriations to reimburse certain company expenses for keeping skilled and trusted personnel in a ready state when they are unable to perform work, either on-site or remotely, due to closures or other government-imposed restrictions. Without this authority, federal contractors would have been forced to lay off tens of thousands of employees whose work requires in-person presence at a work site – whether an assembly line, a laboratory, or a secure site for handling classified material – that they could not access because of facility closures or the need to limit staff to maintain social distancing.

Our small businesses have hundreds of employees supporting federal agencies who have had to limit their work because of pandemic-related health and safety restrictions. Many of our companies and small companies like ours have drawn on 3610 authorities to keep these individuals employed and in a ready state so they can resume contributing to the nation's economic and national security as soon as health and safety conditions allow.

Without the ability to draw on 3610 authorities, many companies could be forced to terminate many of these employees. Many others, fearing disruptions to their incomes, would leave of their own accord to find more stable employment in the commercial sector. Because it is difficult and time-consuming to replace employees with specialized skills or security clearances, our companies' future ability to support critical government missions would be hindered without 3610 authorities.

The course that the pandemic will take over the coming months is uncertain. However, as more workers become vaccinated, it is likely that agencies will be able to permit more densely populated work sites, thereby mitigating the need for 3610 relief over time. Our nation has already invested in the national security workforce through 3610 for eleven months; failing to extend these authorities for an additional six months risks sacrificing what has already been done to keep the workforce poised to return to full capacity.

The extension of 3610 authorities through September 30, 2021, will help small businesses like ours survive the pandemic and continue contributing to national security. We encourage you to support the extension of 3610.

Thank you for your consideration. Respectfully submitted on behalf of the following small businesses:

ML Mackey,  
Chair, Small Business Division, National Defense Industrial Association  
Chief Executive Officer, Beacon Interactive Systems

Kelly Allen  
Chief Executive Officer, Allen Integrated Solutions, LLC

John Ayers  
Founder and Chief Executive Officer, RedLattice Inc.

Mike Bartholomew  
Chief Operating Officer, FTS International, LLC

Heidi Gerhards  
Chief Executive Officer, Fuel Consulting LLC

Charles Griffin  
President and Chief Executive Officer, Next Rev Technologies, LLC

Donna Huneycutt  
Co-founder, President and Chief Operating Officer  
WWC Global

Tom Hyatt  
Chief Executive Officer, Stratos Solutions

Ken Lukonis  
President and Chief Executive Officer , Strategic Alliance Consulting Inc.

Mark Schaible  
Chief Executive Officer, Sonex Aerospace LLC

David M. Shaw  
Co-Founder and Chief Commercialization Officer, Astrapi Corporation

Paul Trotter  
Managing Partner, Top Corner Consulting

Holton Yost  
Chief Executive Officer, The SWIFT Group