

## Senate Amendments to SBIR-STTR Blocking EPA's Authority: Political Maneuvers that Will Do Nothing for Small Businesses

Washington, DC - March 16, 2011 -- We, the undersigned organizations representing a diverse set of business interests that range in size from fortune 500 companies to the small businesses that make up the backbone of this country, stand united in opposition to legislative attempts to undermine the authority of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to enforce the Clean Air Act (CAA). The bipartisan CAA has a long standing history of protecting public health and the environment since being signed into law in 1970 and most recently amended in 1990 with overwhelming bipartisan support. In the last two decades, emissions of the most common air pollutants have declined by 41%, while Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has increased by more than 64%. Unfortunately, two proposed amendments unrelated to *S. 493, the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and the Small Business Technical Transfer (STTR) Reauthorization Act of 2011 (SBIR/STTR Reauthorization)*, would block the EPA's authority to enforce provisions of the CAA. Congress created SBIR in 1982 and STTR in 1992 to stimulate technological innovation and commercialize new products that led to the creation of jobs such as those in domestic manufacturing. The SBIR/STTR Reauthorization represents the first long-term reauthorization since 2000 and would provide certainty to these critical programs if enacted into law.

However, some in Congress want to jeopardize the reauthorization of these programs by playing politics with the environment and forcing a debate around EPA's regulatory authority. Specifically, the following proposed amendments to the SBIR/STTR Reauthorization would roll back the EPA's ability to protect public and workforce health from dangerous emissions of carbon and other greenhouse gases (GHG):

- **The McConnell (R-KY) Amendment**, would overrule public health experts and scientists by *indefinitely* taking away EPA's ability to regulate these emissions from polluting industries. **We urge legislators to OPPOSE this amendment.**
- **The Rockefeller (D-WV) Amendment** would also overrule public health experts and scientists by *temporarily* taking away EPA's ability to regulate these emissions from polluting industries. Such a delay only creates further business uncertainty for forward looking businesses such as those we represent; therefore **we urge legislators to OPPOSE this amendment.**

These amendments won't help small businesses and won't create jobs. In fact, they'll leave small businesses - through factors such as higher employee health costs and productivity loss - to pay the price for dirtier air and will directly put jobs at risk. Over the past 40 years, the CAA has helped our economy create millions of new jobs and is one of the primary reasons for the dramatic growth of the U.S. environmental technologies industry and its workforce. Moreover, our research shows that the benefits of the CAA are wide reaching, and a diverse array of small businesses are eagerly looking to participate in a growing sustainable economy to boost their bottom lines. Given the negative impact on small business and environmental technology jobs that these amendments are bound to have, it is highly ironic that they would be attached to the reauthorization of the SBIR and STTR — programs that have been a key component of small business success. **We urge the Senate to reject these amendments should they come up for a vote**, and, instead, get back to providing support for programs like the SBIR that affect small businesses the most. Passage of either of these amendments creates a slippery slope towards undoing or delaying other critical protections under the CAA.

American Businesses for Clean Energy  
American Sustainable Business Council  
Main Street Alliance  
Small Business Majority  
South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce

## **About the Groups**

**American Businesses for Clean Energy (ABCE)** is an initiative to demonstrate large and small business support for EPA's clean air rules and Congressional enactment of clean energy and climate legislation. [www.americanbusinessesforcleanenergy.org](http://www.americanbusinessesforcleanenergy.org)

**The American Sustainable Business Council** is a growing coalition of business networks and businesses committed to advancing a new vision, framework and policies that support a vibrant, equitable and sustainable economy. The Council brings together the business perspective, political will and strength to stimulate our economy, benefit our communities, and preserve our environment. Today, the organizations that have joined in this partnership represent over 65,000 businesses and social enterprises and more than 150,000 entrepreneurs, owners, executives, investors and business professionals and other individuals. [www.asbcouncil.org](http://www.asbcouncil.org)

**The Main Street Alliance** is a national network of state-based small business coalitions. The Alliance creates opportunities for small business owners to speak for ourselves, advancing public policies that are good for our businesses, our employees, and the communities we serve. [www.mainstreetalliance.org](http://www.mainstreetalliance.org)

**Small Business Majority** is a national nonprofit organization focused on solving the biggest problems facing America's 28 million small businesses. We conduct extensive opinion and economic research and work with small business owners, policy experts and elected officials nationwide to bring nonpartisan small business voices to the public policy table. [www.smallbusinessmajority.org](http://www.smallbusinessmajority.org)

**The South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce** is a statewide, 5,000+ member advocacy organization working to make state government more small business friendly. [www.scsbc.org](http://www.scsbc.org)