The American Legion

OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

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March 29, 2016

The Honorable Steve Chabot, Chairman
Small Business Committee
United States House of Representatives
2361 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Chabot:

On behalf of the over 2 million members of The American Legion, I would like to express support for H.R. 2221, the *Veterans Small Business Enhancement Act.* This bill, as written, would amend the Small Business Act to direct the task force of the Office of Veterans Business Development to provide access to and manage the distribution of excess or surplus property to veteran-owned small businesses.

The American Legion supports legislation that would give veteran-owned small businesses access to surplus federal property. The General Services Administration's (GSA) federal property program benefits both the federal government and the small businesses that participate in it. Unclaimed surplus property costs the federal government millions of dollars to dispose of every year. This same surplus property may help small businesses offset the overhead expenses associated with opening a storefront or office.

This bill's intent is consistent with the nation's goal of building the veteran small business industrial base. Currently, minority small businesses are already in GSA's federal property program. The inclusion of veterans in the program is a step in the right direction in leveling the playing field for our veteran entrepreneurs. The American Legion passed Resolution 339 which supports legislation that enforces parity for veterans in all federal small business programs, ensuring that veterans are not at a disadvantage in competing with any other program established by law.

Again, The American Legion supports H.R. 2221 and applauds your leadership in addressing this issue facing our veteran entrepreneurs.

Respectfully,

DALE BARNETT
National Commander