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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0531

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEES ON
INTELLIGENCE AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS,
MILITARY PERSONNEL
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
SMALL BUSINESS
SUBCOMMITTEES ON
CONTRACTING AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
OVERSIGHT, INVESTIGATIONS,
AND REGULATIONS

Dear Colleague,

I am grateful to be serving with you in Congress. We are experiencing a period of instability and economic uncertainty spurred by a self-motivated President who [doesn't care about Americans' financial situation](#) and who has said that he ["love\[s\] the inflation."](#) Now is the time for a focused, aggressive, and forward-looking strategy that puts our small businesses first. I respectfully request your support for Chair of the House Small Business Committee.

Small businesses drive growth in every community across our great nation – but they aren't getting what they need. They need access to capital; a low-cost, high-margin environment; a fair shot at competing for federal funding opportunities; a stable labor market; tools to help them safely leverage emerging technologies like artificial intelligence; and a Small Business Administration that does not discriminate against minority-owned, women-owned, Native-owned, and veteran-owned small business owners.

They also need protections – protections against corporate greed, intellectual property theft, the consolidation of federal contracting opportunities toward large businesses, inhumane immigration policies targeting small business owners and employees, increasing energy prices, and the Trump Administration's own fraud, waste, and abuse.

I'm ready to fight for every single one of your communities, together. **As your Small Business Committee Chair, I would focus on the following priorities:**

1. **Delivering Access to Capital:** With our small businesses facing higher costs, unstable markets, and new technologies, access to reliable capital is proving vital for our local businesses to stay open and competitive. It's not just about removing barriers Trump is imposing on Main Street. It's also about delivering access to capital for all our small businesses – from those needing microloans for a new piece of equipment to those looking to buy a building to grow their business. We need to show that House Democrats want our local businesses to have the capital to thrive, not just survive.
2. **Stability and Affordability:** Small business bankruptcies are up because of Trump's economic pressures. Small businesses overwhelmingly share that costs are too high and the future too uncertain. To drive real policy wins for our Caucus and the American people through our affordability agenda, we need to be intentional in leveraging the role of small businesses across many aspects of our economy from healthcare and childcare to immigration and trade. Fostering stability and affordability for our small businesses means creating an economy where everyone is better off.
3. **Accountability and Stewardship:** The Trump Administration has been a poor steward of small business resources and must be held accountable for jeopardizing our nation's future. The SBA

has forced drastic cuts, restructurings, rules, and more with no transparency. I will use every tool at my disposal to hold them accountable and stop them from mortgaging the long-term success of our small businesses.

4. **Fueling Innovation:** We need to start building our vision for the future. This means proactively investing in new technologies while ensuring equal access for small businesses. Our small businesses' ability to safely develop, adopt, and commercialize new technologies, like artificial intelligence, is key to our nation's economic development, competitiveness, and national security.
5. **Bolstering New Growth:** Our party needs to look beyond Trump – not to return to a status quo, but to new growth opportunities for our small businesses. This starts with intentional engagement with our small business community to hear what they need. We must not only protect entrepreneurial development programs but build upon them where needed. We need to invest in small businesses' ability to scale and grow.

I started my career when I enlisted in the Navy and later commissioned as an officer. I served as a supply corps officer for over a decade, where logistics, small business contracts, and budget management were my bread and butter. After leaving the Navy, I owned a small business, where I had to balance a budget to make payroll, and work through operational realities, incentives, risks, and decision-making processes that our entrepreneurs face daily.

I served as president of a non-profit foundation with an endowment of over 20 million dollars. Running a foundation of this size is like running a small business. I also served on the board of directors of two non-profits focused on supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs. This experience has helped me build out a knowledge base and network that will enable me to best support women, minority, and veteran owned businesses.

After my first term in Congress, I had the great privilege of serving as the Under Secretary of Personnel and Readiness at the Pentagon under President Biden. I managed a budget of over 60 billion dollars and an organization of over 20,000 personnel. If elected your Chair, I would bring a unique understanding of both our military and government operations, which will help me tackle our shrinking defense industrial base – a crisis that provides avenues for bipartisan collaboration but also requires stern oversight.

If elected as Chair, I would be one of only two Hispanic Members to lead a Committee in the House. Representation of Hispanic and Latino communities in leadership positions within our Caucus is more important than ever, especially given the crucial role of Hispanic businesses in driving our economy. I strongly believe in holding agencies accountable to protect our small businesses and move toward more transparency, certainty, and opportunities, not barriers and rhetoric.

Thank you for your consideration, and I hope to earn your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.