

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

March 16, 2016

The Honorable Ander Crenshaw  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Financial Services  
Committee on Appropriations  
B-300 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC, 20515

The Honorable José E. Serrano  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Financial Services  
Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Crenshaw and Ranking Member Serrano:

We urge the Committee to include funding for the State Trade Expansion Program (STEP) consistent with the authorization levels provided in the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015. Since its inception in 2010, STEP has produced impressive results supporting small businesses.

The STEP program's benefits are twofold. First, the program increases the total number of small businesses that export by providing support to help them start selling their products abroad. Second, the program helps small businesses that have been exporting to increase their sales in overseas markets. The STEP grant award is available in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. Territories. In the first two years of STEP, 3,737 small businesses benefited from participation in the program. Around the country, a majority of states have effectively leveraged these resources for a return on investment of more than \$10 for every \$1 invested. In Washington State, the program returns an extraordinary \$182 to the state's economy for every \$1 spent.

The STEP program helps our small businesses create jobs here at home by helping these businesses sell more of their products overseas. Recently, Congress overwhelmingly supported a reauthorization of the STEP program in the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015, and we respectfully request that you provide funding consistent with this newly enacted legislation.

Sincerely,

  
Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress

  
David G. Reichert  
Member of Congress

  
Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

  
Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress

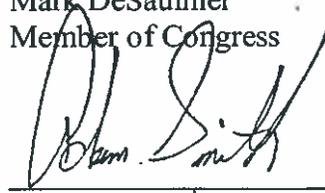
  
William R. Keating  
Member of Congress

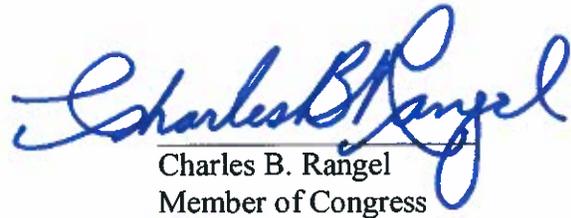
  
John K. Delaney  
Member of Congress

  
Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress

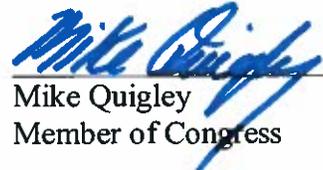
  
Donald S. Beyer, Jr.  
Member of Congress

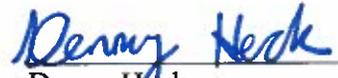
  
Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

  
Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

  
Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress

  
Ron Kind  
Member of Congress

  
Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress

  
Denny Heck  
Member of Congress

  
Andre Carson  
Member of Congress

  
Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

  
Ami Bera  
Member of Congress

  
Collin C. Peterson  
Member of Congress