



National Gay & Lesbian
Chamber of Commerce®

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

As proponents of equality for all to participate fully in our society and economy, we believe it is time to level the playing field in federal contracting so that all certified LGBT-owned businesses have a fair chance to compete for contracting opportunities. We respectfully urge you to issue an Executive Order or Presidential Memorandum to prohibit discrimination in government contracting and subcontracting based on the sexual orientation or gender identity of the business owner and to set goals to affirmatively include LGBT-owned small businesses in federal procurement and subcontracting.

There are an estimated 1.4 million LGBT-owned businesses in the United States – an untapped well of innovation, job creation, and economic growth. However, no protections exist to prohibit discrimination against these businesses in federal contracting. The history of discrimination against LGBT individuals by the federal government and lack of any protections for LGBT-owned businesses perpetuates a sense among these businesses that the federal government is not open to them, and among major federal contractors that seeking out LGBT-owned suppliers is not necessary.

Issuing an Executive Order or Presidential Memorandum would tell LGBT-owned businesses and major contractors alike that the federal government is open for business with the LGBT community. LGBT-owned businesses have much to contribute and gain from increased access to federal government contracting opportunities. And, the intentional inclusion of LGBT-owned businesses in federal contracting will also benefit the federal government and American taxpayers by creating a larger and more visible pool of diverse suppliers who can provide the federal government and its prime contractors with more options to find contractors and subcontractors that provide good value for money.

Your Administration has already taken significant steps to ensure there is LGBT equality in federal contracting, particularly as it related to the employees of federal contractors. Now it is time to finish the job and ensure that contractors and subcontractors themselves cannot face discrimination either.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that the federal government is clearly opening its doors for business with the LGBT community.

Sincerely,

Believe Out Loud
BiNet USA
Bisexual Resource Center
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals
Equality Federation
Family Equality Council
GLAAD
Human Rights Campaign
IGLTA - The International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association
Marriage Equality USA
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs
National LGBTQ Task Force
National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance
PFLAG National
The Trans People of Color Coalition