

Restore Fair Competition to the Private Sector

Huizenga-Frank-Maloney-Sensenbrenner

Cosponsor H.R. 3634: the Federal Prison Industries Competition in Contracting Act of 2011

Current Cosponsors: Huizenga, Frank, Maloney, Manzullo, Olver, Royce, Sensenbrenner, Tiberi

Dear Colleague,

We have introduced bipartisan legislation that will once again allow local job creators - especially manufacturers and service industries - to compete on equal footing for contracts with the federal government.

Federal Prison Industries, also known by the trade name, Unicor, is a government-owned corporation that employs federal prisoners to manufacture goods or perform services to fulfill contracts with federal agencies and departments. Some examples include: office furniture, clothing and textiles, electronics, vehicular components and fleet management, industrial products, electronics recycling, and services such as call center and data and document conversion. Unicor operates 89 factories in federal prisons across the country.

The bill we've introduced, H.R. 3634, will restore to the taxpayer the greatest value for their hard-earned money, by forcing federal agencies to bid for fair and reasonable prices and for products that best suit their needs. The bill will also substantially enhance the opportunity for public participation in the process by which Unicor is authorized to produce a new product or expand production. That's just common sense.

Furthermore, Unicor would be required to submit a detailed analysis of the impact to the private sector before entering into new product markets and would not be able to sell products commercially or internationally; the only customer could be the federal government. It also prohibits agencies from contacting with Unicor in which inmates would have access to sensitive or classified information.

The bill preserves market access for these products or services to the hard working men and women of our districts, not to someone who is serving a sentence for breaking the law. Why not help keep or create a new job for an honest taxpayer? That's the economic security that America needs.

For more information, please contact John Kran in Representative Huizenga's office (x 54401 or john.kran@mail.house.gov) or Pilar Faló in Representative Frank's office (x 55931 or pilar.falo@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/

Bill Huizenga

Member of Congress

/s/

Barney Frank

Member of Congress

/s/

Carolyn Maloney

Member of Congress

/s/

Jim Sensenbrenner

Member of Congress

Business groups and companies supporting this legislation include:

American Apparel and Footwear Association (AAFA)

American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA)

Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturer's Association (BIFMA)

Business Coalition for Fair Competition (BCFC)

Council on Federal Procurement of Architectural and Engineering Services (COFPAES)

Herman Miller

Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors (MAPPS)

Steelcase Inc.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce