

**Washington, DC** - The Business Coalition for Fair Competition (BCFC) today released key vote scorecard for the 112th Congress (2011-2012).

"This scorecard shows how members of the House and Senate each voted on 10 key issues affecting government competition with the private sector in the 112th Congress," John Palatiello BCFC President said at a news conference at the National Press Club in Washington, DC.

To call attention to the issue of government competition with private enterprise and educate and inform the American voter on where their Congressmen and Senators stand, BCFC released a government competition Congressional voting scorecard. These 10 House and Senate votes provide the public a clear and concise guide to who in Congress supports free enterprise and small business and who supports bigger government that competes with free enterprise. On issues from healthcare to insourcing, public-private partnerships to land ownership, the scorecard provides transparency on where incumbent members of Congress stand on the tough votes.

"We are seeing an unprecedented level of government expansion into numerous activities that should be left to the private sector. In our free enterprise system, government should be the umpire, not the opposing team. Firms in the marketplace should be free to compete against one another, with government assuring a level playing field and imposing only that level of regulation that prevents competitors from injuring each other, or their customers. For-profit companies should not be subjected to unfair competition created by the government," said Palatiello.

"BCFC's ratings of Congress are central to understanding who really supports small business, and who hides behind the rhetoric of being a friend to the entrepreneur. Competition from government is a real threat and constraint for America's small businesses, and the BCFC's vote ratings help separate the friend from the foe," said Karen Kerrigan, President & CEO, Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council.

Palatiello concluded, "These votes show where each member of Congress stands on the 'Yellow Pages Test'. Today, the federal government owns and operates thousands of activities that are commercial in nature. They are functions that are not inherent or unique to government, but rather they can be found in the Yellow Pages from small businesses on Main Street in virtually every town in America. If an activity is available from a private company found in the Yellow Pages, that activity should either not be a responsibility of the federal government and, instead, should actually be performed by a private firm under contract with the federal government. Or, another option, is that it at least should be subject to a public-private cost and quality competition to determine which is the best provider."

Joining Palatiello at the news conference was: Grover Norquist, President, Americans for Tax Reform (ATR); Larry Hart, Director of Government Relations, The American Conservative Union (ACU); Penny Pompei, National Executive Director, Women Construction Owners & Executives (WCOE) USA; Christian Zur, Senior Director, Procurement Policy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; and Manuel "Manny" Rosales, Board Member & DC Director for Legislative and Government Affairs, The Latino Coalition.