



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

THE GOVERNOR

February 23, 2017

Dear Advisory Council Members:

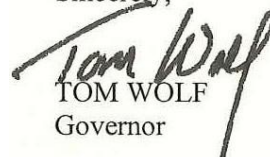
I commend you and your colleagues on the Advisory Council on Diversity, Inclusion, and Small Business Opportunities for putting together an excellent report with thoughtful recommendations that will allow the commonwealth to improve our partnership with small businesses and small diverse businesses. Your commitment to improving access to government opportunities is evident by the amount of time and energy dedicated to putting this report together.

This report, developed through your extensive work with the departments of General Services, Community and Economic Development, Labor and Industry, and Transportation, will serve as a roadmap to improve small business and small diverse business participation in commonwealth contracting. The recommendations – which range from establishing a rigorous, empirically valid metric for small business and small diverse business participation in state contracting to working to improve and expand public and private sector workforce development programs – help establish the foundation from which we collectively move forward.

I understand the importance of setting a goal to increase participation, which will hold us accountable for acting on your recommendations and following through with our commitment. To ensure we can operationalize the goal and implement the steps to achieve it, it is essential that we do our due diligence. Thanks to your work, the commonwealth is already slated to undertake a disparity study this summer which will allow us to set short-term and long-term goals to increase small business and small diverse business participation in contracting. States and local governments across the country, including Maryland, Philadelphia, and New York City, have used the findings of disparity studies to set participation goals. It is my hope that we will have preliminary data and a first draft within 12 months of contract execution. During this process, we will work to move the other recommendations forward.

This report is just the beginning – my administration is committed to increasing diversity, inclusion, and small business opportunities in government. Again, I applaud the accomplishments of the Advisory Council, and I am looking forward to working with you to implement these recommendations. Thank you for your work on behalf of the residents of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,


TOM WOLF
Governor