

REN-19-013: Exempting Small Businesses from Category Management to Ensure Native Contractors are Not Harmed

Sponsor: Native American Contractors Association

Combined Sponsor: Denise Desiderio on behalf of Ho-Chunk Inc.

Summary:

- Category Management has an adverse effect on Native contractors and businesses. This application limits opportunities for Native contractors, creates a non-competitive environment for federal contracting, and has the ability to remove small business contracts from the jurisdiction of the Small Business Administration without notice or justification.
- Resolution REN-19-013 aims to exempt small businesses from Category Management and allow SBA to have control over small business contracts and provide recommendations on Category Management and contracting.

Issue:

Category Management is an approach the federal government implemented with the intent of increasing efficiency through the creation of major categories of federal procurement and providing federal agencies with a more streamlined federal acquisition process. The procurement policies under Category Management ensure that a “fair proportion” of federal contracting is awarded to small businesses. However, these policies are required to use specific acquisition methods which limit the innovation and accessibility of a variety of services, technologies, processes, and goods.

Category Management lessens competition by sidelining eligible businesses that would otherwise compete because the competition is restricted to contractors cleared for the Category Management vehicle; increases long-term procurement costs; and removes small business contracts from the U.S. Small Business Administration’s (SBA) control.

Action:

REN-19-013 urges Congress to provide Congressional oversight and legislative language that exempts SBA set-asides from Category Management, requests mandatory consideration of small businesses during a contract procurement analysis, requests an SBA voice and vote on the procurement governing council for Category Management, and requests that SBA evaluate current large contracting vehicles and make a recommendation for small business access based on its findings.

For additional information, please contact Jacob Schellinger at jschellinger@ncai.org or Brittany Habbart at bhabbart@ncai.org.

Resolution Action Plan: REN-19-013

Title: Exempting Small Businesses from Category Management to Ensure Native Contractors are Not Harmed

Sponsor: Native American Contractors Association, Combined Sponsor: Denise Desiderio on behalf of Ho-Chunk Inc.

Action Plan:

- 30 Days:
 - Research and familiarize oneself with resolution subject area.
 - Evaluate legislative and executive branch advocacy opportunities.
 - Contact resolution sponsor to coordinate requested assistance.

- 60 Days:
 - Assess opportunities for cross-coordination with other affected communities referenced in the resolution.
 - Letter to Congress addressing issues covered in the resolution.
 - Conduct Hill visits on congressional letter.

- 90 Days:
 - If executive branch advocacy has been identified, begin implementation (*e.g.*, letters and meetings).

- 120 Days:
 - Continue Hill and related advocacy.
 - Prepare update on NCAI advocacy for 2020 Mid Year Conference.