



Office of Representative Heath Shuler

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District

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Rep. Shuler's "Buy American" Amendment Passes House *Small Business Contracting Goals to Apply to Federal Overseas Contracts*

Washington, D.C. – A bi-partisan amendment offered by Representative Heath Shuler (D-NC) and Representative Steve Chabot (R-OH) to extend small business contracting goals to the federal government's overseas contracts passed the House of Representatives today with overwhelming support, 398-29.

"When federal agencies spend taxpayer dollars, they should look to American small businesses first," said Rep. Shuler. "At a time when we see more and more jobs being sent overseas, this amendment strengthens our policy of using small businesses to build a strong industrial base, and it provides accountability to make it more likely that federal dollars are spent here at home."

U.S. small businesses are now more capable of competing on a world-wide basis. According to Census Department data 97% of American exporters are "small" and 30% of the products America exports come from small businesses.

"Our small businesses have proven that they can do the job," Rep. Shuler continued. "In fact, businesses all over North Carolina are leading the way in overseas competition. They want and need more access to federal contracts to continue competing and growing."

By including overseas contracts in federal small business contracting goals, federal agencies will be discouraged from using foreign companies or outsourcing to large businesses that then may subcontract with foreign companies. Reports estimate that by extending contracting goals to the government's overseas contracts American small businesses could gain contracts worth nearly \$15 billion.

Rep. Shuler's "Buy American" Amendment was supported by the National Small Business Association, the Associated General Contractors, Women Impacting Public Policy, the US Women's Chamber of Commerce, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and the Black Chamber of Commerce.

Rep. Shuler's "Buy American" Amendment was a part of the Small Business Fairness in Contracting Act, HR 1873, which also passed the House 409-13.

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