

Legislative Report

SMC Organizes a New Action Team to Push For Your Concerns

by Eileen Anderson

It's time to seize the playing field! More and more punitive and restrictive business legislation is being shoved through Congress. Unopposed, this trend will continue to suck the life out of striving entrepreneurs. SMC will lead the charge and fight back *BUT WE NEED YOU*. SMC is looking for 100 men and women to join our new Action Team to write, fax, and call lawmakers on the issues.

There are 27 million small businesses in the United States. Small firms create 66 percent of new jobs annually. Their employee's account for more than 50 percent of the workforce. Small business pumps almost a trillion dollars into the economy each year. We can no longer let lawmakers treat us as an afterthought.

Our nation needs us now more than ever. There are more than 14.9 million unemployed Americans. Let's not add to those ranks. Instead, we need to push for an environment that helps small business do what it does best: create more jobs. We must bring a business friendly approach back to government and stimulate entrepreneurial activity, the bedrock of economic growth. Free enterprise and individual initiative must be the first priority of every leader if we are to create the jobs that will restore a healthy economy.

SMC's Action Team will educate lawmakers about the problems faced by small businesses and make them aware of the impact proposed legislation has on these entrepreneurs.

If we don't tell them, who will? Ill-conceived legislation discourages aspiring entrepreneurs and drives more nails into America's small business coffin.



We will advocate for a competitive business climate and reduction of the costs of doing business - taxes, health care, energy, and labor - to help small businesses thrive and grow. Then we can create the jobs needed to put our country back to work.

We are up against interests with deep pockets and teams of sophisticated, professional advocates intent on advancing their own agen-

das, often at the expense of the small business community. With your help, we will substitute enthusiastic volunteers for deep pockets and utilize the traditional tools of the entrepreneur — innovation, persistence, and hard work.

SMC's Action Team will not require a huge commitment of your time but it is something that every business owner can — and should — do. Action Team members will write, fax, and call lawmakers in Washington, D.C. and Harrisburg in a timely and coordinated way as the need arises. SMC's Government Relations Committee will provide letters and talking points to make your participation as easy as possible.

You won't need to write and call on every issue. We will, however, encourage you to carry the torch for the issues that affect you the most. The input of your personal knowledge and experience is crucial to our success because you have the real facts, straight from the trenches.

Join the Action Team today. Call Eileen Anderson, SMC Government Relations Manager, 412.342.1606 or e-mail eileenanderson@smc.org. ▼

Editor's Note: Eileen Anderson is vice president of Red Clay Tile Works as well as working enthusiastically as SMC's Government Relations manager.

Cyber Attacks (Continued from page 13)

major resurgence of smaller manufacturers who design these high-technology components here in the U.S., if we are to remain secure in the 21st Century.”

In 2008, there were nearly 70,000 reported attempts to break into American computer systems. Over one-third still go unreported. This year, the University of Toronto reported that a “vast spy network” based somewhere in China had already broken into over 1,295 computers in 103 countries. In April, the Department of Homeland Security announced that via small business, spies from China had penetrated computer networks that control the nation's electrical power grid, the Air Traffic Control system, the nation's water supply network, the financial trading network, critical infrastructure controlling oil and gas supplies, and other critical infrastructures, leaving behind software that could be used to switch the systems off. Thus, within this decade, many more cyber attacks are possible, some destroying valuable information, others destroying lives and the freedoms we Americans enjoy.

Americans need to understand the potential dangers, and work together to lessen them, so we aren't taken by surprise by another orchestrated attack. Congress is working today on the details. The Obama White House and the National Security Council are just beginning to explore new forms of regulation meant to thwart threats to our critical infrastructure and national security, and to keep our networks and computer systems free from being used as the front-line of a new form of battle — the cyber war. ▼

Editor's Note: Frank Sowa is working with the National Security Agency and JCS-JROC on Strategic Management training to better understand and examine the underlying processes and methods that are at work in cyber intrusions. A Pittsburgh-based strategic management consultant, Mr. Sowa is chairman/CEO for The Xavier Group, Ltd., a consulting firm he formed in 1981. He can be reached via e-mail, fxsowa@mac.com. Sowa's latest project — “The Dragon and The Tiger: Economic, Social, Technological, and Military Development, A Futures Perspective” — co-authored by Dr. Marvin J. Cetron, John Coale, Frank, Sowa, and Owen Davies was published in September.

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