



For immediate release: Jan. 24, 2012

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State of the Union Addresses' Key Small Business Concerns: Economy and Jobs

Statement by John Arensmeyer, CEO, Small Business Majority:

President Obama's State of the Union speech addressed many of small businesses' key concerns, including rebuilding the economy, creating jobs and increasing access to capital for small businesses.

Small businesses create 65 percent of all new jobs, so it's important their interests remain a top priority for lawmakers in 2012. We were glad to hear the president reaffirm his commitment to provisions in the American Jobs Act—many of which would boost small businesses' bottom lines and put people back to work—as well as his vow to move the economy forward through innovation and investing in clean energy. Small businesses are looking for bold policies that will prompt innovation in clean energy—recent polling we released found 87 percent of small business owners believe improving innovation and energy efficiency are good ways to increase prosperity for small businesses.

We're also pleased the president focused on the need for small businesses to compete on a level playing field with big business. To thrive, small businesses need an economy that works for everybody. To ensure small business success, it's also imperative lawmakers continue to support the Small Business Administration.

The economy has made strides since the bottom dropped out four years ago, but there's still work to do. It should start with small business, our primary job creators. We hope all lawmakers make this key constituency a top priority through 2012 and beyond.

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Small Business Majority is a national nonpartisan small business advocacy organization founded and run by small business owners and focused on solving the biggest problems facing America's 28 million small businesses. We conduct extensive opinion and economic research and work with small business owners, policy experts and elected officials nationwide to bring small business voices to the public policy table.