

**Statement of
The Honorable James L. Oberstar
Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings,
And Emergency Management
“Doing Business With The Government: The Record And Goals
For Small, Minority, Women, And Disadvantaged Businesses”
March 6, 2008**

I am very pleased to welcome the witnesses to today's hearing. It is not often that we get an opportunity to hear from the entire range of agencies that come under the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management at the same hearing.

The timing of today's hearing is not random. Our country faces troubling economic times. One of the most effective ways to help stimulate the economy is through government contracting and procurement. The Federal Government can stimulate the economy not only with its programs, but also with its day-to-day procurements and its contracting clout. The programs we will hear about today will highlight not just how to stimulate economic activity, but how to target that spending in areas where it is most needed and will provide the greatest public benefit.

I look forward to hearing from the witnesses today and extend my warm welcome to all witnesses.