Message from the President
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MBDA Regional Offices Closing…Changes Coming

Like most of you, the U.S. Black Chamber, Inc. is trying to work through the rationale of the recently announced closing of the five regional offices of the Minority Business Development Agency. Officials from the Obama Administration and the Commerce Department confirmed the decision, citing budget pressures as the primary reason for the move.

According to administration officials, the Office of Minority Business Development has a total budget of $30 million dollars. The five regional offices are located in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

The USBC has enjoyed a great working relationship with MBDA National Director David Hinson and his staff, which adds to the mixed emotions spurred by the announcement. We are not happy to see any federal department dedicated to the improvement of opportunities for the men and women our organization was created to serve go out of existence, or be seriously curtailed. At the same time, we are hopeful and optimistic that the "super" department detailed in President Obama's newly proposed streamlining of U.S. government agencies and departments dedicated to business, commerce and trade will preserve the function – if not the form – of MBDA.

We will keep USBC members apprised of this situation as it develops. The White House and congressional delegates have assured us that the important work of MBDA will not be allowed to go unattended. In the meantime, please let your U.S. Representative and Senators know of your concern via email, letters and phone calls. We cannot allow efforts to shrink government spending deprive us of effective tools for business growth.

In the spirit of success,

Ron Busby Sr.
President
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