

May 18, 2018

The Honorable Don Beyer
1119 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mark Meadows
1024 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Beyer and Meadows:

On behalf of the nearly 400 member companies of the Professional Services Council (PSC), I write to convey our association's strong support for your amendment #324 offered to the Fiscal Year 2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA/ H.R. 5515) to prevent improper use of "lowest-price technically-acceptable" (LPTA) evaluation factors for certain services in the civilian agencies. PSC is the voice of the government technology and professional services industry, representing the full range and diversity of the government services sector.

PSC understands that LPTA has a place in the acquisition toolbox and can achieve desired outcomes when appropriate. However, LPTA's misuse can produce subpar results and increase long-term cost to the government. It is particularly ill-advised to apply LPTA to complex professional or IT services where higher-level technical capabilities and innovation are often sought and the contracting requirements are often difficult to accurately define.

This amendment mirrors provisions in the FY17 NDAA that limited LPTA for procurements with well-defined requirements and objectives in the Department of Defense and expands the criteria government-wide. Implementation of your amendment would help ensure that all federal agencies have the flexibility necessary to seek and obtain innovative solutions, better outcomes, and ultimately the best value on behalf of taxpayers.

PSC looks forward to working with you to see this amendment adopted and then retained in the final conference report signed into law. Thank you for your leadership and your attention to this important issue. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Respectfully,



Alan Chvotkin
Executive Vice President and Counsel

CC: Chairman Pete Sessions and Ranking Member Jim McGovern, Committee on Rules
Chairman Mac Thornberry and Ranking Member Adam Smith, Armed Services Committee