

March 14, 2018

The Honorable Trey Gowdy  
Chairman  
House Committee on Oversight  
and Government Reform

The Honorable Elijah Cummings  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Oversight  
and Government Reform

Dear Chairman Gowdy and Ranking Member Cummings:

On behalf of the member companies of the Professional Services Council (PSC), I write to convey our association's strong support for the Freedom from Government Competition Act of 2017 (H.R. 1339). We greatly appreciate your support for this legislation and urge its passage.

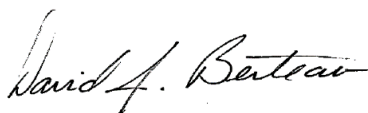
The Freedom from Government Competition Act, as introduced, would establish a general rule that "each agency shall obtain all goods and services necessary for or beneficial to the accomplishment of its authorized functions by procurement from private sources," with exemptions for national security and inherently governmental functions. The bill would also require the use of competitive sourcing to ensure the best value is obtained for taxpayers.

The policy of the federal government for the past 60 years has been to rely on the private sector whenever it can provide services and products that meet government needs. This policy has been articulated in Circular A-76 and its predecessors, issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Implementation of that policy imperative has often been constrained by statute or practice. On behalf of its member companies, PSC has long supported the underlying policy, opposed those constraints, and promoted competition. H.R. 1339 will help on all three fronts.

OMB Circular A-76 is based on competition between the federal workforce and the private sector, a proven approach that leads to more efficient and effective government operations while decreasing costs. A 2006 study on the impact of A-76 concluded that "such competition results in cost savings, irrespective of who wins the competition." Another study found that the competition generates average savings of 20 percent and that those savings were retained over time. Competition itself drives performance costs down. Fair, balanced policies and clear, understandable execution of public-private competition are necessary to ensure that the best results are obtained for taxpayer dollars. H.R. 1339 supports both the policies and their implementation.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this issue, and we look forward to working with you to see this legislation enacted. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact PSC's Vice President of Government Relations, Cate Benedetti, or call me directly.

Yours Respectfully,



David J. Berteau  
President and CEO