

Is Washington DC completely paralyzed?

On January 3, 2019, at approximately 9:30 AM, President Donald Trump signed into law S.2679, a Bill that would allow veteran-owned businesses to acquire goods and equipment no longer needed by the Federal government. Since 2012, Illinois veterans (and those across the country) along with member states of the National Association of State Agencies for Surplus Property (NASASP, Inc) worked tirelessly to move this forward into law. Yet a year later, following the President's signature into law, nothing has been accomplished.

Whenever Federal or military agencies have excess or surplus inventory they no longer use, it must be reported to the U.S. General Services Administration for reutilization prior to sale at public auction. This includes personal property such as automobiles, computers, off-road equipment, hand and power tools, office furniture, kitchen equipment—1000s of items are endless and worldwide. When not requested by Federal or State agencies, other eligible and authorized organizations, the items are sold at scheduled public auctions.

It is now a year since the bill was signed into law. Our veterans have been waiting for notice of the rules to qualify and apply for eligibility to the Federal Surplus Program. Is our Federal government so paralyzed by partisan bickering that they cannot execute policy or publish rules to allow our veterans access? The U.S. General Services Administration and the U.S. Small Business Administration need to act today—not another year from now—TODAY...and get the program in place with each State Agency for Surplus Property(SASP) across the nation.

In Illinois, it is estimated there are more than 80,000 veteran-owned businesses that may be eligible. This win-win situation could help our veteran-owned businesses keep equipment overhead low, and perhaps create more jobs for our nation's heroes!

We need our veteran business owners, veteran support organizations, and those who support this Bill to speak up and ask these Federal agencies to get the program open.

You may write to those agencies at the below:

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Administrator
U.S. General Services Administration
1800 F Street NW
Washington, DC 20405

Chris Pilkerton
Acting Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street, SW
Washington, DC 20416

(Copy to)
Robert Holcombe
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Larry Stubblefield
Associate Administrator
Office of Veterans Business W
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