



Letter from the Chair

As President Obama's newly appointed Chair of the National Women's Business Council, I am honored and energized by this opportunity. For twenty-two years, the Council has been a non-partisan source of advice and counsel to the President, Congress and the "U.S. Small Business Administration" on what matters most to the economic growth of women's small business enterprise.

Since assuming this role in October 2010, it has been my pleasure to work along side our new Executive Director, Dana Lewis. Together we have engaged in building partnerships and expanding our outreach to women business owners and leaders of women's business organizations.

We are pleased to report that we completed the 2010 annual report to the President, Congress and the SBA. We also moved quickly to put in place the key support staff required to drive the work of the Council. This was a critical first step in moving forward with our agenda. We have now directed our full attention to completing the vetting and appointment process that will bring our Council back to a count of 15 strong and engaged women business leaders.

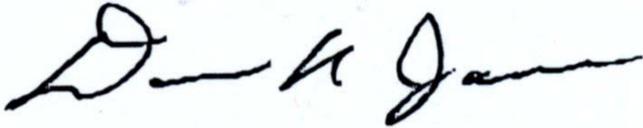
Our goal is to substantially complete these appointments by the middle of March and proceed immediately with scheduling the first full Council meeting in April 2011. We will keep you abreast of our progress along with upcoming events and initiatives as they take shape. As we continue to work together to grow our national economy, it will require unlocking small business innovation and high

growth from Main Street to Wall Street, as well as suburban to rural America. Our intent will be to:

- Advance a strategic research agenda that provides the President, Congress and the U.S. Small Business Administration with non-partisan and independent policy and program recommendations to drive economic growth.
- Direct innovative educational and interactive initiatives with women business owners at all stages of growth.
- Provide relevant and timely information and insights to women business owners for growing their businesses.

These are challenging times, filled with tremendous opportunity. We look forward to building upon the legacy and accomplishments of the women leaders from the prior Councils and working with you and others to execute the vision of engaging and economically empowering women entrepreneurs and small business owners across our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donna A. James". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Donna A. James

Chair

National Women's Business Council