

September 25, 2013

The Honorable Mary L. Landrieu  
Chair  
United States Senate  
Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship  
Washington, DC 20510-6350

Dear Madam Chair:

Acting Administrator Hult has asked me to respond to your recent letter requesting that the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) re-open the comment period for the Commercialization Benchmark for the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. In the letter, you ask that we re-open the comment period for an additional 30 days.

The notice regarding this benchmark requirement was published in the Federal Register on August 8, 2013 (8 FR 48537) with a 30 day comment period that closed on September 9, 2013 and an effective date of October 7, 2013. Forty-seven comments were received through [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) docket ID: SBA-2013-0008. We also received comments submitted to our program office email: [technology@sba.gov](mailto:technology@sba.gov).

In response to your request and to requests from other SBIR/STTR stakeholders, we have submitted a notice to the Federal Register to re-open the comment period for an additional 30 days. The notice will be published on September 26, 2013 and the new public comment period will be open for 30 days from that date. This additional period should provide adequate time for comments from those commenters that were unable to respond during the initial period.

We appreciate your continued support of SBA and the SBIR and STTR Programs. If you and your staff have additional questions, please contact Mr. Nicholas Coutsos, SBA Assistant Administrator for Congressional and Legislative Affairs, at (202) 205-6335.

Sincerely,

Pravina Raghavan  
Acting Associate Administrator  
for Investment and Innovation