



NEWS RELEASE

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President Bush Recognizes Small Businesses' Important Role in U.S. Economic Recovery; Proclaims National Small Business Week

WASHINGTON – President George W. Bush today applauded America's 25 million small businesses and their important role as risk takers, innovators, and job producers in leading the nation's economic recovery. He called on all Americans to honor the "dedication and entrepreneurial spirit of small business owners who are vital to our nation's economic growth and prosperity" during National Small Business Week - May 16-22, 2004.

President Bush issued the proclamation for National Small Business Week May 15, noting that "Small businesses are a central part of America's economy. They create approximately 70 percent of new private sector jobs in this country. As our nation's economy continues to grow stronger, we must encourage their spirit of enterprise."

"To help small businesses invest and create more jobs, we have decreased the tax burden. We have given small business men and women a fair chance to bid on government contracts. We have a plan to create more opportunity for America's small businesses and workers by making health care costs more affordable and predictable; streamlining regulations and paperwork requirements; reducing frivolous lawsuits; making America less dependent on foreign sources of energy; and permanently eliminating the death tax," the President said.

"In this Small Business Week, we salute America's small business owners and entrepreneurs and workers for their contributions to America's prosperity and for making our nation better and stronger," he said.

The U.S. Small Business Administration is a proud partner in this nation's ongoing mission to create an environment in which small businesses can grow and thrive. Small business owners from across the country will be in Orlando, Fla., May 19-21 to partake in conferences, celebrations, a town hall meeting and matchmaking events at the U.S. Small Business Administration's *SBA Expo '04: Celebrating National Small Business Week*, co-sponsored by SCORE, "Counselors to America's Small Business. Interested small business owners, business organizations, and other individuals may find additional information at www.sba.gov/50.

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Editor please note: Full and official proclamation can be found at:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/05/20040515-4.html>