

APPENDIX 5

Marc Pentino, Eastern Regional Office, USCCR, Letters to Gary N. Lee, Director, BCABD,
June 27, 2000, and Sept. 21, 2001



UNITED STATES
COMMISSION ON
CIVIL RIGHTS

624 Ninth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20425

June 27, 2000

Mr. Gary N. Lee
Director
Bureau of Contract Administration and Business Development
502 North Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17125

Dear Mr. Lee:

The Pennsylvania Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is preparing a report entitled *Barriers to Minority and Women Owned Businesses in Pennsylvania* based on its January 1999 community forum which we hope to release early next year. Enclosed are portions of the draft report pertaining to the Bureau of Contract Administration and Business Development (BCABD) which were based on available literature and BCABD staff interviews. I have sent copies of this material to BCABD staff referenced in the report.

We invite you and BCABD staff to assist us to strengthen the section by reviewing and commenting upon the draft passages for accuracy and supplementing the description of BCABD. You may elaborate on the draft by simply writing in changes or comments directly on the attached portion or attaching a separate sheet. If there is additional information which has appeared in other publications or other kind of internal documentation which we may review for possible citation, please share it with us as well. As a suggestion, items you may wish to contribute include:

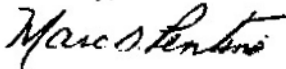
- Improvements or changes you have seen both in public contracting since the implementation of the State's new contract and procurement procedures.
- Number of certified M/WBEs as of July 1, 2000.
- Number of M/WBE certifications or request for certification which have been rescinded or denied during the last 5 years.
- Number of investigations performed by BCABD for alleged fraud in programs involving M/WBEs.
- Commitments and payments to MBE, WBE, Enterprise Zone, and African American firms in 1999 and first half of 2000.
- BCABD reports submitted to the Department of General Services, if publicly available.

Since State contracting is a significant source of business opportunity for M/WBEs, I have also included a copy of chapter 2, *Barriers to Minority and Women-Owned Businesses* which describe the difficulties reported to the Committee at its January 1999 forum. We invite you to comment on your perceptions of the challenges M/WBEs face and solutions which could be implemented by State agencies, prime contractors, and others.

Please be mindful that the draft is confidential and as such should not be released to the public or quoted. As we are trying to complete our report quickly, we would appreciate your response by **July 14, 2000**. We would appreciate your coordination of the response by BCABD staff which will be incorporated as appropriate. If we do not hear from you on or before that date, we shall assume that you have no corrections to this draft. For your convenience, I am enclosing a

postage-paid return envelop to return your comments, or if you wish, you may fax your changes to 202-376-7548. If I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me at 202-376-7533.

Sincerely,



Marc D. Pentino
Civil Rights Analyst
Eastern Regional Office

cc: Ki-Taek Chun, Director, Eastern Regional Office
Pennsylvania Advisory Committee
Bureau of Contract Administration and Business Development
Betty Miller
Zara Waters
Usha Hannigan
Mary Grace Majors

Please Note: The enclosed portions are for editing purposes only and are not to be released to the public