

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **New York City Architect Questions SBA Contracting Policy**

New York, NY (May 7, 2008) - Nancy Goshow, managing partner of Goshow Architects, one of New York City's largest women-owned architectural firms, met with the offices of New York Senators Chuck Schumer and Hillary Clinton during the annual meeting of Women Construction Owners and Executives (WCOE) recently in Washington D.C.

WCOE is a national trade association representing women owners and policy making executives in the construction industry. Goshow spoke out against a Small Business Administration proposed rule that reduces federal contracts protected status for women-owned businesses. Goshow also is a member of Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP), the nation's largest bipartisan women's business group.

The SBA's new rule would only extend protected status to women-owned businesses in four out of 2,300 categories listed by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS): kitchen cabinet manufacturing, engraving, other motor vehicles and intelligence. If enacted, the rule would drastically limit the number of governmental contracts awarded to women entrepreneurs by requiring women-owned businesses to show under-representation in thousands of industries and direct discrimination by a government agency to qualify for protected status.

"Women run million dollar businesses and we are being shut out of the federal procurement market because the process does not allow us to compete with the mega-million dollar businesses," said Goshow. "Our prices can be more competitive and we often offer a higher level of service and expertise. But we cannot even get in the front door. This is especially true in non-traditional fields such as construction."

It took Goshow more than 10 years of meeting people and submitting proposals before she got the firm's first federal contract with the General Services Administration. She added, "With women-owned firms receiving less than 3 percent of all federal procurement, either the government is not doing an adequate job of reaching out to women-owned firms or there remain active barriers in preventing women-owned businesses from doing business with the federal government," said Goshow.

Goshow also spoke to the senators' staff on WCOE's positions on supporting legislation which allows small business to form a consortium to procure health insurance at a lower rate than industry groups, and the establishment of one-step certification of women-owned small business firms.

Goshow Architects is a full-service architectural firm dedicated to improving communities through long-term, sustainable design solutions. Their extensive portfolio includes K-12 schools and higher educational facilities, multi-family housing developments, and projects for assorted government agencies, as well as private and not-for-profit developments. Established in 1978, the 40-person practice is a leading proponent of green design.

For more information on Goshow Architects please go to [www.goshow.com](http://www.goshow.com) or call (212) 242-3735.

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