



The USBLN® Applauds Governor Markell's Executive Order 44

Order Adds Business Owners with Disabilities to Delaware's Supplier Diversity Efforts

For Immediate Release
May 5, 2014

Contact: Anita Howard
Phone: (800) 706-2710
anita@usbln.org

WASHINGTON, DC (May 5, 2014) – The US Business Leadership Network® (USBLN®) applauds the recent announcement of Executive Order 44, signed by Delaware Governor Jack Markell adding Business Owners with Disabilities and small businesses to Delaware's Supplier Diversity efforts.

Executive Order 44 expands the scope of the Governor's Supplier Diversity Council to include the study and consideration of how the State of Delaware does business with enterprises owned by individuals with disabilities, as well as, certain small business. The order also creates the new Small Business Focus (SBF) Program. Businesses are eligible for the SBF Program based on their size and gross sales over a three year period; provided they operate independently of other businesses who do not meet eligibility requirements.

"With the signing of Executive Order 44, Governor Jack Markell continues to lead by example, bringing disability-owned businesses and small businesses into the economic mainstream. We congratulate Governor Markell, his administration and the State of Delaware in creating procurement policies and establishing practices that will positively influence the growth and development of this valuable segment of the business population" stated **Jill Houghton**, USBLN® Executive Director.

There are thousands of business owners who have disabilities—including service-disabled veterans—who should have the opportunity to compete for private and public sector procurement opportunities and thereby contribute to the economic success of our country. Ms. Houghton continued, "Through our certification for disability-owned and operated firms, ability to connect them to contract opportunities of our members and advocacy of inclusive policies, the USBLN® will continue to help leaders like Governor Markell and others change how America views people with disabilities."

To read Gov. Markell's full Executive Order 44, visit: <http://www.governor.delaware.gov/orders/index.shtml>

About the US Business Leadership Network® (USBLN®)

The US Business Leadership Network® (USBLN®) is a national non-profit that helps business drive performance by leveraging disability inclusion in the workplace, supply chain, and marketplace. The USBLN® serves as the collective voice of nearly 50 Business Leadership Network affiliates across the United States, representing over 5,000 businesses. Additionally, the USBLN® Disability Supplier Diversity

Program[®] (DSDP) is the nation's leading third party certification program for disability-owned businesses, including businesses owned by service-disabled veterans. www.usbln.org

#