

Fairfax County Small Business Commission
Small Business: Legislative and Policy News
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Fitzpatrick, Sinema Introduce “Made In America” Act

On September 28, 2017, Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Congresswoman Kristen Sinema (D-AZ) introduced the Made in America Act, H.R. 3850. This Act is aimed to create a voluntary, standardized labeling program to inform consumers whether products are American made.

The Made in America Act would encourage consumers to buy American products by creating an American star program similar to the USDA’s Certified Organic program. The percentage of the product manufactured in the United States would be indicated on the good. Further, the FTC would be responsible for the providing guidelines, labeling and enforcement.

Congressman Fitzpatrick stated that when consumers buy American products, they are not only purchasing quality products but assisting American businesses and workers across the country.

Congresswoman Sinema stressed that aiding American consumers in buying American products was a “win-win situation” and by creating a definitive, standardized definition of American made, it would connect American consumers and manufacturers like never before.

Business owners praised the legislation. Michael Araben, CEO of K-NEX Hatfield urged Congress to pass the legislation. Mr. Araben opined that making American products supports both economic and national security.

The legislation will assist small businesses who rely on domestic manufacturing for their products. According to the National Association of Manufacturers, (NAM) 248,152 of the 251,901 manufacturing firms in the United States were considered to be small businesses. NAM also references that for every \$1.00 spent in manufacturing, \$1.81 is added to the economy. According to NAM, manufacturers contributed 2.18 trillion dollars last year to the economy and employ 9% of the workforce.

http://www.buckslocalnews.com/news/fitzpatrick-sinema-introduce-made-in-america-act-bipartisan-legislation-supports/article_31263344-50d3-5f49-a68e-7fad605b7d94.html

SBA Rolls Out New Lender Match Tool to Connect Small Businesses and Lenders

On September 28, 2017, SBA Administrator, Linda McMahon announced the launch of Lender Match, a referral tool that will match the nation’s small businesses with participating SBA lenders. The program will be an upgrade to LINC, which was launched in 2015.

Lender Match would allow small businesses and entrepreneurs to fill out a short and online form connecting them with nationwide lenders. The software is designed to better aid and connect small businesses with qualified lenders.

Administrator McMahon stated that the mission of Lender Match it to facilitate and simplify finding lenders for small businesses. She added that her goal as SBA administrator is for small business owners to increase their access to capital.

Lender Match will be available to all SBA 7 (a) and 504 lenders nationwide including nonprofit lenders that offer free financial advice and specialize in micro lending, a program designed to assist small business owners.

Lender Match program will benefit the American companies by not only reducing the wait and processing time for small businesses, but also by simplify the search process for lenders seeking to find and assist small businesses in need of capital.

<https://www.sba.gov/about-sba/sba-newsroom/press-releases-media-advisories/sba-rolls-out-new-lender-match-tool-connect-small-businesses-and-lenders>