



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

September 15, 2025

Kelly Loeffler
Administrator, U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street SW
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Administrator Loeffler:

As governor of Wisconsin, I write to emphasize the importance of the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) programs for Wisconsin businesses, share the successes we've had in implementing SBIR/STTR here in Wisconsin, and request that the U.S. Small Business Administration continue to advocate for this important program as Congress considers federal fiscal year 2026 appropriations and other legislative priorities. Wisconsin has been a national leader in implementing and supporting SBIR/STTR recipients, and continuing this partnership is essential to Wisconsin's small businesses, entrepreneurs, and our innovative technology industry.

As you know, for decades federal agencies with large research and development budgets have been required to set aside a small percentage of funds for small business support through the SBIR/STTR programs. Small businesses are the backbone of Wisconsin's Main Streets and communities across our state and country. Since 2018, Wisconsin businesses have been awarded over \$100 million in SBIR/STTR program funding. Here in Wisconsin, we have been proud to partner with the federal government and provide matching dollars for SBIR/STTR recipients via the SBIR Advance program through the Universities of Wisconsin Center for Technology Commercialization and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation. SBIR Advance awardees have created nearly 1,000 jobs across 18 Wisconsin communities, ensuring Wisconsin SBIR/STTR grant recipients are supported as they implement innovative projects in defense, healthcare, energy, and more.

Support for innovative small businesses is more important than ever as the Trump Administration continues to cut critical funding for research and technology advancement, including up to \$500 million for mRNA vaccine development and broader rescissions of National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding and programs. To be clear, vaccines save lives, and these continued cuts will have harmful consequences for Wisconsin businesses and institutions, and Americans everywhere.

SBIR/STTR programs require periodic reauthorization by Congress to continue operation and will need to be reauthorized in the federal fiscal year 2026 appropriations legislation or other legislation before September 30, 2025, in order to continue. Allowing this important program to lapse will create significant uncertainty, disrupt existing projects, and weaken our nation's leadership in advancing important technological and scientific industries, on top of hurting businesses and our local economies in Wisconsin and across our country. I respectfully ask that you join me in recognizing the importance of the SBIR/STTR programs and urging Congress to include a timely, clean, long-term reauthorization in the final fiscal year 2026 appropriations package or separate legislation.

Thank you for your attention to this important program, and please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Tony Evers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tony" and last name "Evers" clearly distinguishable.

Tony Evers
Governor

cc:

U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin
U.S. Senator Ron Johnson
U.S. Congressperson Bryan Steil
U.S. Congressperson Mark Pocan
U.S. Congressperson Derrick Van Orden
U.S. Congressperson Gwen Moore
U.S. Congressperson Scott Fitzgerald
U.S. Congressperson Glenn Grothman
U.S. Congressperson Tom Tiffany
U.S. Congressperson Tony Wied