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April 17, 2025

Hannah Matesic
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Hannah,

I am writing on behalf of a contractor within my district to inquire about the Department's position and actions regarding the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program as it applies to FHWA-funded contracts.

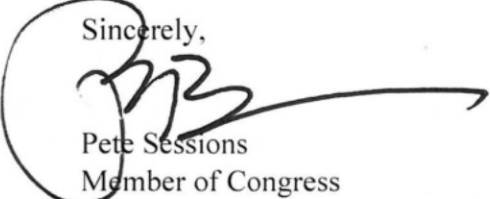
I have been made aware that DBE "goals" included in TxDOT-administered projects function in practice as requirements—effectively forcing subcontract awards based on race or gender rather than merit or value. This approach distorts the federal procurement process, raises project costs, and discriminates against qualified firms solely because they do not meet DBE classifications.

Given the Administration's directive to roll back DEI mandates, I would like to know what steps the DOT has taken to reassess or rescind DBE employment consideration enforcement. A recent federal injunction (*Byrum v. USDOT*, 2024) raises serious constitutional questions about the program's legality, and I believe this moment provides an opportunity to restore a merit-based contracting framework.

Please contact Albert Mercer on my legislative staff via email at albert.mercer@mail.house.gov or

(b)(6) Additionally, I can be reached at eagle@petesessions.com or (b)(6)

Sincerely,


Pete Sessions
Member of Congress