

ADDITIONAL QUOTES BY ADVOCATES

“For the last three years, I’ve been fighting both unethical interference in the set-aside program by large companies and unfair treatment by the Air Force contracting community,” Espinosa stated. “I only trust that the OHA and SBA rulings will bring more attention to the subject by the contracting community at a time when the regulations are being reviewed.”

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Anthony Robinson, Esq., CEO of the Minority Business Enterprise Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MBELDEF) [<http://www.mbeldef.org>], who, at Espinosa's request, has been monitoring Air Force set-aside contract opportunities, said, *“What happened here was not only a violation of the letter and spirit of the law, but of the small business policy.”* He added, *“Without an appropriate enforcement mechanism, violators are gutting fundamental due process and the fairness of the system.”*

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“Small and minority business contracting is vital to the American Economy as it employs 80% of the US workforce,” said Roger Campos, CEO of MBRT (<http://www.mbrt.net>) He added, *“Minority businesses are growing six time faster than the rest and these experiences are not helping our cause.”*

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Lloyd Chapman, President of the American Small Business League (ASBL) [www.asbl.org] agrees to demand ‘enforcement,’ *“the system has severe penalties in place to deter abuse, but the government has been reluctant to prosecute the violators.”* He added, *“Federal Agencies must also be held accountable and threaten with the lost of funding and/or disciplinary actions whenever abuse is involved.”*

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