



Mulvaney and the Goliath that is Insourcing

By Matthew Weigelt Feb 02, 2011

The small-business contracting world might want to listen for the name Mulvaney.

Freshman Rep. Mick Mulvaney (R-S.C.) has been named chairman of the Small Business Committee's Contracting and Workforce Subcommittee.

In a statement Feb. 3 announcing his appointment, Mulvaney was quick to say he is against the Obama administration's efforts to insource jobs to federal employees by pulling work away from businesses.

"I plan to push back against the president's current policy of insourcing, which unnecessarily increases the size and spending of the federal government," said the former small business owner.

Mulvaney also said he plans to make sure government contracting rules are not biased against small businesses.

Rep. Sam Graves (R-Mo.), the chairman of the full committee, says he also will dig into insourcing with hearings and investigations over the next two years.

Meanwhile, the program to insource work has backers that one committee will find it tough to knock down; the Obama administration and the Democratic Senate.

The House members will have to be aggressive to make a difference; the administration is expected to soon release its policy guidance that tells agency officials when they should insource work.

The guidance deals with inherently governmental functions and close to inherently governmental functions, jobs no one really objects to whether they should be insourced. The controversial part is the term "critical function." Decisions to insource those jobs will raise many objections, and lots of business owners are concerned that they are unsure what an agency official will consider such a function to be.

Graves and Mulvaney will have to prove they have five smooth stones and a sling to defeat this giant. I'm not sure they have them.