DATE

The Honorable FIRSTNAME LASTNAME

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman LASTNAME:

On behalf of YOURORGNAME, I am writing to urge your support for H.R. 5485, the FY17 Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) Appropriations Bill. This bill prioritizes funding for vital programs at the Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Department of Treasury (Treasury) that promote entrepreneurship including: SBA’s Microloan Program, the Program for Investment in Micro-Entrepreneurs (PRIME), Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) Women’s Business Centers (WBCs), and the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund.

REPLACE with paragraph about your organization

*CAMEO is California’s statewide micro-business network made up of over 180 organizations, agencies, and individuals dedicated to furthering microbusiness development in California. We expand resources and build capacity for our member organizations that provide entrepreneurs with micro and small business financing such as loans and credit, business technical assistance and business management training. Annually, CAMEO members serve about 20,000 very small businesses with training, business and credit assistance and loans. These firms – largely start-ups with less than five employees – support or create 35,000 new jobs annually in California.  And generate a total of $1.5 billion in economic activity.*

Congressional investment in micro-business development matters: 80% of small businesses that receive business development services are still in business after five years. This compares to an overall five-year business success rate of less than 50 percent. Businesses that receive training have average annual revenues that are 38 percent higher than those that do not. The development services provided by the SBA and Treasury are critical to growing and sustaining microbusinesses.

We strongly support the following appropriations levels in H.R. 5485:

Treasury CDFI Fund $250M

SBA Microloan – Lending            $44M

SBA Microloan – TA $31M

SBA PRIME                     $5M

SBA WBCs                                     $19M

SBA SBDC $125M

Thank you in advance for your consideration. As advocates for the small business and microbusiness community, we can confidently say that the FY17 FSGG House Appropriations bill provides support for programs that are vital to the success of microbusinesses and entrepreneurs in California and across the country.

Sincerely,

YOURNAME

TITLE

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