

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT**

Jennifer Calloway, 202.466.7324, [jennifer@westinrinehart.com](mailto:jennifer@westinrinehart.com)

John Cpin, 202.466.3050, [john@westinrinehart.com](mailto:john@westinrinehart.com)

**George Cloutier Calls For Real Proposals and Solutions  
For Small Businesses at U.S. Conference of Mayors Meeting**

*Cloutier Honored with First-Ever Leadership Award from Nation's Mayors*

WASHINGTON, D.C. (January, 29, 2008) – In his speech after accepting the first-ever *U.S. Conference of Mayors Leadership Award*, George Cloutier called for all mayors and for all politicians and presidential candidates to offer specific proposals and solutions on how to help small businesses in this country.



“Small businesses supply 99.6% of all employer units, about ½ the gross national product and create 2/3 of country’s jobs. It’s about time we do something for small businesses, one of the major engines of our economy,” said George Cloutier. “Politicians talk, propose and procrastinate and when something does happen, it will be too little to late for the small businesses in our metro economies.”

Some proposals that Cloutier called for included:

1. “The Small Business Administration’s budget is a paltry 600 million, 31% less than the budget in 2000. The budget in my opinion should be increased five fold to 3 billion dollars. Senator Kerry and Senator Snowe had to fight with the SBA to get an additional 60 million because SBA and the current administration believed that small businesses did not need any more money.

You could write billions more in guarantees for risky loans, for much needed high risk business to expand businesses into metro economies.

2. The second proposal would be to earmark in the current emerging economic plan 50 billion in additional loan guarantees to be offered to small businesses around the country. How many of you honestly knew that the US Department of Agriculture has multi-million dollar portfolio focusing on small businesses, not just focused on farming enterprises. Some senior senators didn’t even though these programs existed.
3. In addition there are at least 35 other agencies that have small business programs buried in bureaucracy. All these agency programs should be consolidated to a super SBA office offering agency services, money funding, expert assistance, international finance etc.

We recently did a survey and only 6% of small business owners did business with the government and the other 90% didn't know where to call or how to do business with the government.

4. Rather than having each bureaucracy market its services to the public, I propose we have a 1-800 number. 1-800 SBA HELP, where individual small business owners can be referred to the department programs they need with live operators to help out small business owners calling in for help.”

###

*George Cloutier is founder, Chairman and CEO of American Management Services and Chairman of Partner America(tm). American Management Services specializes in the implementation of turnaround and profit improvement programs for small and mid-sized companies. For more information, please contact American Management Services at 800.743.0402 or visit the website at [www.amserv.com](http://www.amserv.com).*

\*\*The opinions expressed are solely the opinions of the author and do not reflect the views of American Management Services or PartnerAmerica™ or the United States Conference of Mayors.