U.S. ABILITYONE COMMISSION

September 28, 2026

Ms. Soraya Correa
President and Chief Executive Officer
National Industries for the Blind (NIB)
3000 Potomac Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22305

Dear Ms. Correa,

Thank you for your letter dated September 1, 2026, and for NIB's continued leadership and support in advancing the President's goals – shared by the U.S. AbilityOne Commission and our General Services Administration (GSA) customers – to strengthen domestic manufacturing and ensure truthful advertising of products' country-of-origin (COO). I appreciate your thoughtful engagement and the comprehensive information NIB provided in response to the concerns raised by GSA's letter of August 14, 2026.

I also want to acknowledge the AbilityOne Program-wide product reviews conducted by both NIB and SourceAmerica to validate COO information, assess supply chains, improve domestic sourcing, and strengthen adherence to all applicable requirements under the Buy American Act (BAA), Trade Agreements Act (TAA), Make PPE in America Act, and related statutory frameworks. These efforts demonstrate a shared commitment to accuracy, transparency, and compliance, and they reflect genuine progress toward reinforcing the integrity of the AbilityOne Program.

As you know, the Commission conveyed its position to GSA in my September 4, 2026, letter responding to GSA Administrator Forst. In that correspondence, we committed to ensuring that COO data for GSA-managed Procurement List items is accurate, traceable, and properly reflected in systems accessible to Federal customers. To support these efforts and to ensure the Commission can provide a complete and authoritative response to GSA by November 12, 2026, I respectfully request NIB's assistance in completing the following:

1. Updating the Verified Products Portal (VPP) COO Data

To the maximum extent practicable, update the GSA VPP with conforming COO data for all NIB-associated products affected by the GSA class deviation not later than **November 6, 2026**. Should a significant disagreement arise between NIB and GSA concerning the application of the TAA to AbilityOne products, such matters shall be treated as disputes in accordance with Commission Policy 51.211(6)(c), unless and until a written agreement between the Commission and GSA provides otherwise.

Please provide the Commission with a comprehensive list of any GSA-managed products that have a non-TAA compliant COO, along with a detailed explanation for non-compliance. If the non-compliance is due to the unavailability of a TAA-compliant source, indicate the date on which the waiver request was submitted to GSA, in accordance with FAR 25.502(c)(3). If the reason for non-compliance is a delay in transitioning from a non-TAA compliant source to a compliant one, specify the COO for the new source and provide an estimated timeline for completing the transition.

We anticipate processing Purchase Exception requests from GSA immediately after November 12, 2026**,** in accordance with 41 CFR § 51-5.4, for any product included on a GSA Multiple Award Schedule (MAS) contract without an acceptable waiver or waiver request. As required by 51-5.4(a)(2), to be granted a Purchase Exception, the ordering activity must demonstrate that a comparable product is available from one or more TAA-compliant commercial sources in the required quantities needed and significantly sooner than it will be available from an AbilityOne nonprofit contractor. Any purchase exception issued to facilitate supply chain transition should be strictly limited to the period of time necessary to complete the change(s). TAA-related purchase exceptions should not be given for AbilityOne products sold through the GSA Commercial Platform Program or any other distribution channel not covered by the GSA class deviation.

2. List of Products Impacted by the Class Deviation

In my letter to Administrator Forst, I noted that prior to GSA's issuance of the deviation, the Commission had already directed AbilityOne nonprofit contractors to proactively seek and utilize TAA-compliant sources whenever domestic options were not readily available. While the elimination of the TAA exception was not entirely unforeseen, it represents a sudden shift in established business practices for many AbilityOne nonprofit contractors. As you have observed, even with a 90-day notice period, implementing these changes with minimal disruption will be challenging.

To provide the Commission with a better understanding of this changing landscape, I ask NIB to provide a detailed list of all NIB products affected by the class deviation – including those that are currently BAA-compliant but not TAA-compliant – by **November 6, 2026**. NIB may provide this list in conjunction with the list of non-TAA compliant products described in item #1 above.

For each affected item, please include:

- Total annual dollar value of the product;
- Estimated annual dollar value of non-TAA compliant raw materials or inventory on hand, purchased by the AbilityOne nonprofit contractor before the GSA deviation;
- Number of NIB-associated nonprofit contractors producing or distributing the item;
- Estimated number of jobs of participating blind direct labor employees that may be impacted by the deviation;
- Any other relevant information that might help with assessing the impact of the GSA class deviation.

This information will support the Commission's assessment of workforce risks, potential mitigation measures, and required discussions within the joint COO working group referenced in my letter to Administrator Forst.

3. Plan for Incorporating COO Accuracy into NIB's ongoing Compliance Program

To leverage existing capabilities, capacity, and practices, please submit a proposed plan to the Commission's Executive Director to integrate COO documentation review into NIB's ongoing AbilityOne nonprofit contactor compliance program, through qualification assessments and/or other methods, by **November 6, 2026**.

The plan should describe:

- Steps NIB has taken to date to review COO documentation and NPA certifications;
- How NIB intends to integrate this verification process into its routine compliance activities, such as qualification assessments; and
- When this enhanced procedure can be fully implemented in FY27.

This plan will help ensure that reported COO information is consistently reviewed, auditable and incorporated into NIB's compliance protocols going forward.

NIB's partnership remains essential to the strength and credibility of the AbilityOne Program. The efforts you and your team have taken – particularly in conducting programwide COO reviews – demonstrate the seriousness with which NIB approaches domestic sourcing compliance and the Program's statutory mission. The Commission looks forward to receiving the requested materials according to the deadlines above and continuing to work closely with NIB to address the concerns raised by GSA while reinforcing the integrity and mission of the Program.

Thank you again for NIB's continued collaboration, responsiveness, and commitment to the Americans whom this Program exists to serve. If you have any questions about any request or guidance provided in this letter, please direct all inquiries to Kimberly Zeich, Executive Director.

Sincerely,

Christina Brandt

Christina Brandt
Chairperson

cc: Jeffrey Koses, Senior Procurement Executive, General Services Administration
Richard Belden, President and CEO, SourceAmerica