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Virginia Beach, VA – Klett Consulting Group, Inc. continues to be a key participant in the Commonwealth of Virginia’s Veterans Workforce Development Taskforce. KCG continues this pro bono service because of the company’s commitment to veterans. Mark Klett, President and CEO of Klett Consulting Group, said, “Klett Consulting Group is fortunate to have the resources and the talent to advance the causes of veterans and we will continue to assist as KCG is needed.”

In November 2007, the Virginia Secretary of Public Safety, following Governor Tim Kaine’s Executive Order 19 titled “Serving Virginia Veterans”, created the Veterans Workforce Development Taskforce. The purpose of the taskforce was to analyze the current workforce development options available to veterans in Virginia, and to develop recommendations for improving the availability and delivery of training, education, and employment opportunities to veterans within the Commonwealth.

In May 2008, the taskforce kicked off its first meeting. Virginia State Senator Frank Wagner’s office invited KCG to participate. Steve Liberman, KCG General Contracts Manager, attended meetings in Richmond and contributed to the final report submitted in August 2008. Steve is currently assisting in the development of the first implementation plan.

State Senate Bill 1145, sponsored by Senator Wagner, and Governor Kaine signed the law in March 2007. It prohibits discrimination by public bodies in the solicitation and awarding of contracts and requires public bodies to establish a program to facilitate the participation of businesses owned by service-disabled veterans in procurement transactions. The bill also requires the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) to establish a program to certify businesses owned by service-disabled veterans upon requests of owners as part of the Virginia Minority Small Business Supply pool.

Though this bill is now law, the implementation has only begun. During the meetings of the taskforce, KCG discussed specific steps necessary for implementation with Vince Burgess, the Commissioner of DVS. As a result, DVS has committed \$20,000 to the Department of Minority Business Enterprise (DMBE) to update eVA, the state’s online procurement system, to allow certified service disabled veteran owned businesses (SDVOB) to register as such. Once complete, all state agencies and a large number of localities that also use eVA will be able to identify SDVOB’s for set-asides or preferred status. Expediting of this step will be in the first implementation plan. KCG is currently working to include follow-on steps to alert all eVA users of this change and to provide training materials on its use. Our ultimate goal for this benefit to SDVOB’s is to get set-aside quotas mandated by law or executive order in a manner similar to federal procurements. This would provide much greater access to state and local procurements by SDVOB’s such as KCG.

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