

## New Report Illustrates Benefits Of Credit Cards To Small Businesses

(NAPSA)—Credit cards can make a big difference for small businesses when used wisely.

Credit cards serve as an important financing tool by guaranteeing payments, which can help entrepreneurs and small businesses weather lean economic times. They also help enhance efficiency and eliminate costs that would otherwise fall on small businesses if they had to operate their own credit and billing systems. And because companies accepting cards are more convenient to most customers, credit cards can increase sales.

The Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council (SBEC) and Chase recently published these findings and more in a new report that examines the various aspects of the relationship between consumers, small businesses and the credit card industry. The report, "Credit Cards and Small Business: The Benefits, Opportunities and Policy Debate," also found that increased government regulation of credit cards may eliminate some of these benefits and ultimately hurt small businesses.

"Ensuring that small business owners have access to the credit they need when they need it is key to the continued growth of these enterprises," said Karen Kerrigan, president and CEO of SBEC. "We're delighted to work with Chase to educate people about the important role credit cards play in helping small businesses across the country manage cash flows and maintain profitability."

The report outlined the top 10 benefits the use of credit/debit cards provides small businesses, including:

- •Credit cards help small businesses function even when business lending is tightened.
- Credit cards help small businesses manage expenses, track purchases and save time.

Credit cards offer consumers convenience and can often help small businesses increase sales. Now, some are voicing concerns that attempts to increase government regulation may lead to higher fees and make credit less available.

- Customers using credit cards guarantee payment to small businesses.
- Credit cards eliminate the need for small businesses to extend credit to customers.

"We're committed to helping small businesses succeed and grow, especially in these tough times, because they are the backbone of our economy," said John Delaney, president, Business Card, Chase Card Services. "Together with SBEC, we are working to show small business owners that we recognize their contributions to the industry and value them as partners."

Small business owners can visit www.chaseclearandsimple. com for more information and ways they can more effectively put credit to work for their business. The full SBEC report is available at www.sbecouncil.org.