

## Small businesses need certainty, not shutdowns | Opinion

*Shutdowns are not just political theater. They are business disruptions. It's time for Congress to reopen the government and give small businesses the stability we deserve.*

**Perlla Deluca** Guest columnist

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### Key Points

- Perlla DeLuca is the president of Southeast Constructors, a women-owned small business that specializes in heavy construction.

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On Oct. 29 and 30, I'm joining over 2,000 small-business owners from across the country in Washington, D.C., for the largest-ever gathering of entrepreneurs at the Goldman Sachs [10,000 Small Businesses Summit](#). We are coming together to advocate for the policies that matter most to our businesses, our employees and our communities. But this year, our journey is shadowed by a government shutdown, which is impacting my business and many others across the country.

As the owner of Southeast Constructors, a women-owned, federally certified general contractor, I know firsthand how damaging uncertainty can be. My company specializes in heavy construction and has completed dozens of federal projects over the past 10 years, from restoring historic landmarks to improving local infrastructure. But today, our work is on hold. Our projects are paused, our teams are sidelined, and our future is clouded by the inability of lawmakers to reach a bipartisan agreement to reopen the government.

We are not alone. According to a new national survey of Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses alumni, 72% of small-business owners say it's important for Congress to find a bipartisan solution to fund the government. Sixteen percent — like me — are federal contractors or subcontractors whose revenue is directly impacted by the shutdown. Twenty percent rely on federal agencies and contractors as part of their business. And nearly a quarter report that their customers are government employees whose paychecks — and spending — are now at risk.

Despite these challenges, small-business owners remain resilient and optimistic. Seventy-two percent [plan to grow](#) in the next year.

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But optimism alone cannot overcome the real-world consequences of instability. When the government shuts down, customer demand drops, contracts stall, and the ripple effects threaten jobs and local economies.

We need predictability. We need stability. We need lawmakers to put aside partisan differences and deliver the certainty that allows small businesses to plan, invest, and grow. Our businesses are the engine of the American economy, but we cannot run on hope alone.

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As I travel to Washington, I am not just representing my company — I am speaking for every small-business owner who wants to build, hire, and contribute. We are ready to take our seat at the table and work with policymakers to develop sound, forward-looking policies. Addressing inflation, increasing access to capital, developing strategies to address our childcare shortage, implementing policy to help small businesses increase their adoption of AI, and supporting competitive benefits are just a few of the steps that would help us thrive.

Shutdowns are not just political theater. They are business disruptions. It's time for Congress to reopen the government and give small businesses the stability we deserve.



Perlla Deluca, owner and CEO of Southeast Constructors, is opening a construction school aimed to help more people, women especially, become employable in the construction industry. *Bryon Houlgrave/The Register*

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*Perlla DeLuca is the president of Southeast Constructors, a women-owned small business that specializes in heavy construction. She is an alumna of the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Iowa cohort, which is offered through Des Moines Area Community College.*