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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

March 2, 2007

The Honorable Steven C. Preston Administrator U.S. Small Business Administration 409 Third Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20416 The Honorable Stephen Johnson Administrator U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Ariel Rios North - 1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrators Preston and Johnson,

The issue of global warming has moved front and center in the national dialogue about our environment, our security, and our economy. CEOs from several Fortune 500 companies are bringing big business into the discussion, joining with environmental groups and urging the Federal government to pass legislation and require significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. We believe that small businesses, which represent 50 percent of the nation's economy, have just as big a stake in contributing to climate change solutions.

To highlight the role small businesses could play, the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship will hold a hearing on Thursday, March 8, entitled, "Small Business Solutions for Combating Climate Change." We request that you, or your designated expert on this particular subject, appear before the Committee as witnesses so that the public can be made more aware of what the Administration is doing to engage small businesses in the effort to address global climate change and energy independence.

We are particularly interested in progress that the Administration has made on implementing the small business requirements included in the Energy Policy Act of 2005. We also request that when you or your designees appear before the Committee, you are equipped with reliable estimates, broken down into readily understood terms, of overall energy use by U.S. small businesses, and of the estimated potential savings that are possible through energy efficiency improvements by small businesses. As our Committee begins to explore the role of small businesses in addressing climate change, this information will be of considerable importance.

Thank you for your attention to our request. Should you have any questions about the substance of the hearing, please do not hesitate to contact us directly, or contact Brian Rice (with Senator Kerry) at (202) 224-5175 or Alex Hecht (with Senator Snowe) at (202) 224-7884. Formal witness invitation letters are attached.

Sincerely,

Chairman

Olympia Snowe Ranking Member