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United States Senate

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

April 30, 2007

Via Facsimile: 202-727-8527
Original Sent by U.S. Mail

The Honorable Adrian M. Fenty
Mayor, District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

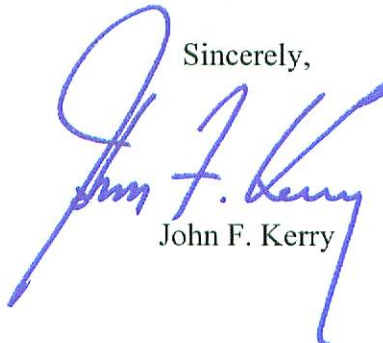
Dear Mayor Fenty,

Early this morning, when fire ripped through Washington's historic Eastern Market building on Capitol Hill, vendors who depend on the landmark to provide for their families saw their businesses go up in flames. Many of these small business owners have operated in the Market for decades, providing a popular destination for tourists and local residents alike.

These business owners are in need of financial assistance to help them stay afloat during this difficult time. The Small Business Administration (SBA) can offer low-interest loans to adversely-impacted businesses if the SBA Administrator declares an economic injury disaster at Eastern Market. A low interest loan from the SBA could provide much needed financial relief to vendors who find themselves without a place to sell their goods. Preliminary reports suggest that sufficient damage was done to warrant a declaration at your request and certification.

As Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I pledge my support to the District and to the small business owners of Eastern Market in seeking this important source of federal assistance. Should you or your staff have any questions regarding assistance available through the Small Business Administration, please do not hesitate to contact me or have a member of your staff contact Brian Rice of the Committee staff at 224-5175.

Sincerely,



John F. Kerry