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## United States Senate

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

December 5, 2007

VIA FACSIMILE & FIRST-CLASS MAIL

The Honorable Steven C. Preston  
Administrator  
U.S. Small Business Administration  
409 Third Street, SW, Room 7000  
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Administrator Preston:

On September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007, the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship held a hearing on key women's small business programs where we questioned your Associate Administrator for Entrepreneurial Development, Anoop Prakash, extensively on the implementation of legislation making permanent funding available to established Women's Business Centers. During this hearing, Mr. Prakash indicated that the Small Business Administration would implement the Women's Business Centers legislation by not later than January 18, 2008. Following Mr. Prakash's response, we indicated that we would be calling a hearing in order to review the status of this and other programs in 120 days.

As discussed at the November 13<sup>th</sup> Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee hearing on lender oversight, which you personally attended, we emphasized how crucial it would be to have you return before the Committee to report on the various oversight issues that were discussed during that hearing. Therefore, the Committee will be holding a hearing, most likely the week of January 21<sup>st</sup> or January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008, to learn of the SBA's progress in implementing the Women's Business Centers legislation, as well as other issues that the Committee has raised in prior oversight hearings this year. The hearing issues may include, but are not limited to:

- Contracting matters, including the final implementation of the Women's Contracting Set-Aside program;
- Completion of small business requirements as mandated by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, including the establishment of a government-wide energy "clearinghouse;"
- The SBA working with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to promote the State Children's Health Insurance (SCHIP) program;
- Funding of non-credit programs;
- Improving SBA staffing shortages and budgetary issues;

- Improving the Small Disadvantaged Business, 8(a) and HUBZone programs by updating regulatory changes and contracting issues;
- Improving the Agency's disaster lending oversight capabilities;
- Meeting small business contracting procurement target goals;
- Servicing contracts for the 7(a) and 504 loan programs; and
- Improvements to and resources for SBA lender oversight and fraud prevention.

Thank you in advance for your responses on the above issues. We would like to confirm a date for the hearing as soon as possible. Please have a member of your staff work with our staff on this matter. We look forward to establishing a firm date and hearing your testimony on these vital issues.

Sincerely,



John F. Kerry  
Chairman



Olympia J. Snowe  
Ranking Member