



U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20416

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

2007 JUN 14 10:36

May 18, 2007

The Honorable John F. Kerry
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kerry:

Thank you for your letter of May 3, 2007, co-signed by Senator Kennedy, supporting Governor Patrick's request that the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) issue a disaster declaration for counties affected by the recent flooding in Massachusetts.

I am pleased to advise you that in response to Governor Patrick's request, an SBA Agency Disaster Declaration was signed on May 7, 2007. The declaration enables SBA to offer low-interest rate loans to eligible homeowners, renters, small businesses, and small business agricultural cooperatives without credit available elsewhere in Essex County and the adjacent counties of Middlesex and Suffolk in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and Hillsborough and Rockingham in the State of New Hampshire. Applications for physical damage may be filed until the close of business on July 6, 2007, and for economic injury until the close of business on February 7, 2008.

An identical letter has been sent to Senator Kennedy. If you have any additional questions or comments, please call me directly.

Sincerely yours,

Steven C. Preston