



OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20416

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June 19, 2008

The Honorable John F. Kerry
Chairman
Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your recent letter supporting Governor Patrick's request that the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) declare a disaster for homes and businesses affected by the recent fire that engulfed the apartment complex in Peabody, Massachusetts.

In response to Governor Patrick's request, Essex County and the contiguous counties of Middlesex and Suffolk in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and Hillsborough and Rockingham counties in the State of New Hampshire were declared an SBA disaster area on June 6, 2008. The declaration enables SBA to offer low-interest loans to eligible homeowners, renters, small businesses, and small business agricultural cooperatives without credit available elsewhere. Applications for physical damage may be filed until the close of business on August 5, 2008, and for economic injury, until the close of business on March 6, 2009.

A similar letter has been sent to Senator Kennedy and Representative Tierney. Thank you again for your personal attention to this issue, and if you have any additional questions or comments, please call me directly.

Sincerely yours,

Jovita Carranza
Acting Administrator