

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 03, 2007

## VIA FACSIMILE & FIRST-CLASS MAIL

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

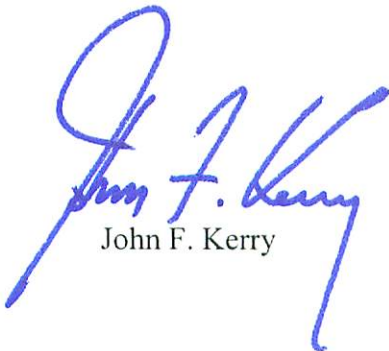
Dear Administrator Preston:

We are writing to you today to support Governor Patrick in his request for physical and economic injury disaster declarations for those counties in Massachusetts that recently endured substantial flooding. As you are aware, preliminary assessments conducted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency suggest that the flooding has resulted in at least \$10 million in damage to public infrastructure in Essex, Plymouth, Barnstable, Dukes, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, and Berkshire Counties.

As cities and towns dedicate their resources to the immediate response, we should ensure that the Federal Government does its part to provide relief to small businesses and homeowners as promptly and efficiently as possible. In the event that the President declares a Major Disaster, the disaster loan program will be triggered automatically; however we should take every precaution to ensure that small business owners and homeowners have access to the capital necessary to rebuild their lives.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. We appreciate your commitment to America's small business owners and to Massachusetts residents during what promises to be a challenging time for the victims of these floods.

Sincerely,



John F. Kerry



Edward M. Kennedy