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United States Senate

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

December 20, 2007

Ms. Lurita Doan
GSA Administrator
U.S. General Services Administration
1800 F Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20405-0002

Dear Administrator Doan:

It has been brought to our attention that the General Services Administration (GSA) has not adequately addressed the concerns we raised in our letter of July 6, 2007 and is still actively working to eliminate office supplies from the Stock Program. We were especially disappointed to learn that GSA plans to issue a new solicitation in the next few weeks to outsource these products to a private vendor.

Before GSA moves forward, we request that a temporary halt be placed on this effort until Congress has had a chance to review this issue in greater detail. We're concerned that outsourcing these office supplies will have a devastating effect on the small businesses currently supplying these products. We are also alarmed about the impact the elimination of the Stock Program will have on our Nation's emergency readiness capabilities. Having office supplies readily available is important to our ability to react quickly to disasters. Before GSA eliminates any items from the Stock Program, we would like to fully understand all the consequences of this action.

We are also requesting that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) perform a study of this issue and report back to us as quickly as possible on their findings. We have reviewed past GAO reports on office supplies and the Stock Program but believe that a current GAO review is needed before GSA takes any further steps to terminate the program. We request that you take no further action toward eliminating office supplies or any other items from the Stock Program until we have had adequate time to review the GAO's findings.

Thank you for your cooperation with this request. We look forward to working with you to strengthen the Stock Program and give our small businesses a level playing field in the federal procurement arena.

Sincerely,


John F. Kerry
Chairman


Olympia J. Snowe
Ranking Member