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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

February 13, 2004

VIA FACSIMILE & FIRST-CLASS MAIL

The Honorable Hector V. Barreto
Administrator
Small Business Administration
409 Third Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20416

Re: Increased Employee Relocation Expenditures & Budget Requests

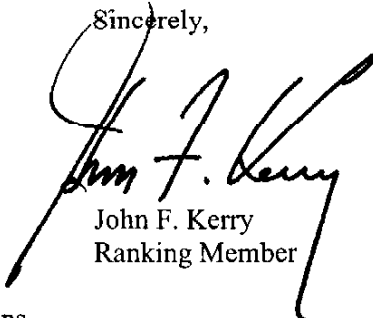
Dear Administrator Barreto:

The President has requested substantial increases for relocation expenses in the FY2004 and FY2005 SBA budgets. In FY2003, the Agency spent \$584,000 on relocations. In FY2004, the Agency requested \$1.2 million and estimates it will spend more than \$2 million, and for FY2005 the Agency has requested \$5 million.

These requests seem extremely unusual given the cuts to the Agency's valuable assistance programs, such as zero funding for SBA's largest loan guarantee program and the elimination of all three microloan programs, as well as the elimination of many Agency jobs rather than the transfer of employees to other important Agency tasks in their local areas. In order to try to understand the significant increase for relocation expenses, the Committee would like to review your plans regarding the Agency's workforce. Please provide me with a copy of all 606 Forms regarding the SBA's workforce that were signed in FY2002, FY2003, and FY2004, as well as any that are circulating for clearance at this time. As 606 Forms regarding the SBA's workforce are signed throughout the rest of this calendar year, I ask that you promptly notify my staff and provide copies to me as they are signed.

Please have the copies delivered to my Committee office (Russell Senate Office Building, room 442) by 5 p.m., Friday, February 20, 2004. This information is readily available and should be easy to provide within 5 business days. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,



John F. Kerry
Ranking Member

cc: Senate Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary