



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

MAY 26 2005

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable John Kerry  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kerry:

Thank you for your letter dated April 8, 2005, concerning the Small Business Administration's role in the President's "60 Stops in 60 Days" tour.

We are pleased that you agree the President and the Administration has the right to make his policy recommendations known to Congress and the public. How to best solve Social Security's problems now, rather than forcing our children and grandchildren to pay increasingly higher costs by putting off reform, is important to all citizens, but especially to small business owners.

The SBA conducts official travel on behalf of the American people. We believe that meeting with people outside Washington to discuss their opinions, needs and desires on important issues and policy questions relating to small business, leads to better public policy and more responsive service.

We have been proud to educate and inform small businesses how fixing Social Security would benefit them. However, most official travel often includes a number of different functions and events, even within the same trip. As such, it is extremely difficult to pinpoint every instance in which a particular policy issue, such as Social Security, may have been promoted.

Overall, I emphasize that official travel at the SBA is conducted, including required authorizations and approvals, in accordance with SBA's Travel Standard Operating Procedure (SOP 20 11 4).

In response to your final question, we have provided internal documents on Social Security to our field offices.

We appreciate your interest in this matter and look forward to working with Congress to create an environment where America's small businesses can flourish.

Sincerely,

Hector V. Barreto  
Administrator