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United States Government Accountability Office  
Washington, DC 20548

April 25, 2006

The Honorable John F. Kerry  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship  
United States Senate

Dear Senator Kerry:

Thank you for your letter of April 17, 2006, jointly signed by Senator Mary L. Landrieu, asking the Government Accountability Office to include information on the Small Business Administration's loss verification operations in our ongoing reviews of the agency's response following Hurricane Katrina. As you know GAO has underway reviews of SBA's Disaster Credit Management System and its handling of other disaster relief efforts. In conducting these efforts, we will consider the concerns you have raised.

We thank you for your interest in these engagements, which are being conducted using the Comptroller General's basic legislative authority for initiating reviews. Because of the importance of issues dealing with the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricanes, GAO has devoted significant resources to address the concerns raised by congressional committees and Members of Congress.

Mr. Richard Hillman, Managing Director, Financial Markets and Community Investment, is the principal point of contact for our work on SBA's Hurricane Katrina response. Please contact Mr. Hillman at 202-512-8678 or Ms. Rosa Harris, Assistant Director for Congressional Relations, at 202-512-9492, if we can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely yours,

*Mary Frances Widener*

*for*

Gloria L. Jarmon  
Managing Director for  
Congressional Relations

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