



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

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable John Kerry
Ranking Member
Committee in Small Business and Entrepreneurship
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kerry:

Thank you for your letter of June 1, 2005, regarding vacancies on the National Women's Business Council (NWBC).

We appreciate your concerns about the vacancies and any imbalances that might result from them. However, despite a few prolonged vacancies over the past several years, the NWBC's membership during that period has included a cross-section of successful women business owners and representatives of women's business organizations who have done an excellent job of advising the President, the Congress and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) on matters important to women entrepreneurs.

In addition, President Bush has just appointed Tami Longaberger, CEO of the Longaberger Company of Newark, Ohio, as the new chair of the NWBC. I look forward to working with Ms. Longaberger and the Congress in filling any existing or future vacancies on the Council.

Identical letters have also been sent to Senators Landrieu, Cantwell, Pryor, Levin, Bayh, Lieberman and Harkin. Thank you for your interest in this matter and for your continued support of women-owned small businesses.

Sincerely,

Hector V. Barreto
Administrator