

OLYMPIA J. SNOWE, MAINE, CHAIR
JOHN F. KERRY, MASSACHUSETTS, RANKING MEMBER
CHRISTOPHER S. BOND, MISSOURI
CONRAD BURNS, MONTANA
GEORGE ALLEN, VIRGINIA
NORM COLEMAN, MINNESOTA
JOHN THUNE, SOUTH DAKOTA
JOHNNY ISAKSON, GEORGIA
DAVID VITTER, LOUISIANA
MICHAEL ENZI, WYOMING
JOHN CORNYN, TEXAS
CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN
TOM HARKIN, IOWA
JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN, CONNECTICUT
MARY LANDRIEU, LOUISIANA
MARIA CANTWELL, WASHINGTON
EVAN BAYH, INDIANA
MARK PRYOR, ARKANSAS

United States Senate

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

WESTON J. COULAM, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
PATRICIA R. FORBES, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL

April 13, 2005

The Honorable Hector V. Barreto
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20416

Re: Outstanding Response to Letter of March 25th Regarding 2005 Buyout for GS-11 through GS-15 Employees

Dear Administrator Barreto:

On March 25, 2005, I sent your office a letter requesting information regarding the Small Business Administration's (SBA) buyout for GS-11 through GS-15 employees and general workforce plans for the remainder of this fiscal year. On April 8, 2005, I received correspondence stating that the issue had been forwarded to the Chief Human Capital Officer "for response and/or evaluation."

As stated in my March 25th letter, the information was due to my office on April 1, 2005, and I have yet to receive a reply from the SBA. Enclosed is a copy of the letter. Given the time-sensitive nature of this information and the amount of time that has already passed beyond the due date, I request you respond to the letter by close-of-business today.

In addition to the overdue request, I would also like a report on reorganization of staff and positions in the Massachusetts District Office. Since my March 24th letter, the Committee has learned that there have been additional workforce changes initiated in the district offices across the nation and that they are to become effective as soon as April 14, 2005. As the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, your office is required to inform me of such changes. I have not received any information to explain the purpose or implementation strategy for this restructuring. In order to provide appropriate oversight on all portions of this reorganization, including those that become effective on April 14, 2005, it is essential that I receive the following information by close-of-business today:

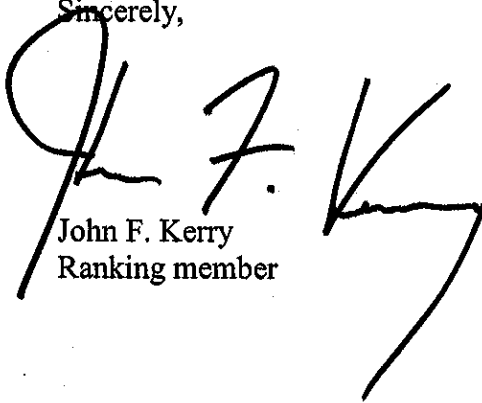
1. A list of the current positions that includes
 - a. the name of the individual that currently holds the position and the GS rating assigned to that job, and,
 - b. a description of how the position is changing, including any changes to the GS rating;
2. A list of positions in which the individual currently holding that position will change, including any changes to the GS rating;
3. A list of any positions or branches being eliminated; and,

4. A list of any new positions or branches being created.

Until I receive this information and have been fully briefed by the Administration, I request that implementation of this District Office reorganization be postponed.

Please have the response faxed to 202-224-5619. If there are questions regarding this request, please contact Kevin Wheeler or Nigel Stephens on my staff at 202-224-8496. Thank you for taking the time to address these concerns of the Committee. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.F. Kerry". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

John F. Kerry
Ranking member

Enclosures: 1