

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 10, 2005

VIA FACSIMILE & FIRST-CLASS MAIL

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

Re: Briefing in Massachusetts on SBA Assistance for Fishermen Hurt By the Red Tide Disaster

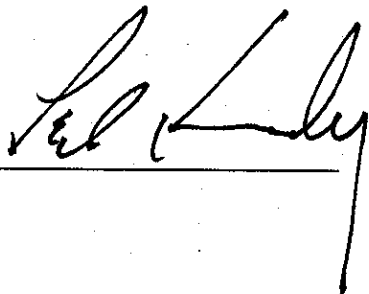
Dear Administrator Barreto:

We understand that your staff is working to make it possible for the SBA to issue an economic injury disaster declaration in Massachusetts on behalf of the fisherman hurt by the outbreak of red tide. We thank you for your assistance and ask that in anticipation of a declaration the SBA work with us to organize a briefing, with a focus on disaster loan assistance, on the coast of Massachusetts for the fishermen.

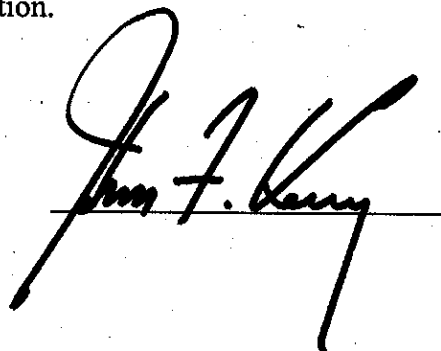
As you know, the disaster loan office that serves Massachusetts is based in Niagara Falls, New York. We believe, rather than relying on long distance calls, it would be more helpful to the small business owners to meet in person with experienced disaster loan officers to explain what the loans are, including the low interest rate and repayment terms, and how to apply for them. Staff could also give an overview of other business assistance available to them through the SBA. We would be happy to work with you to identify a location that could accommodate the business owners and that is convenient for your staff. To work out the arrangements, please contact us directly or have your staff contact Mr. Drew O'Brien, State Director for Senator John F. Kerry, at 617-565-8519.

Thank you, in advance, for your prompt cooperation.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Drew O'Brien", written over a horizontal line.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John F. Kerry", written over a horizontal line.

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Mike DeLoach

John M. Jones

Barney Frank

John F. Tierney

Al D'Amico