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

June 9, 2005

VIA FIRST-CLASS MAIL AND FACSIMILE

The Honorable R. James Nicholson
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Re: Veterans Affairs Participation in SBIR/STTR Programs

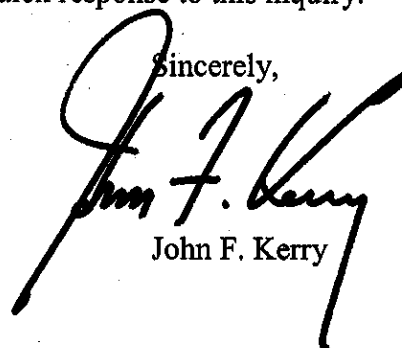
Dear Secretary Nicholson:

I am writing in regard to the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. The Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship has oversight jurisdiction of these programs, and this oversight includes monitoring the participation of federal agencies and departments whose extramural research and development budgets exceed \$100 million for SBIR and \$1 billion for STTR.

The Committee has received information that Veterans Affairs may have exceeded \$100 million in extramural research and development and should be participating in the SBIR program. In light of this, please provide the amount of the Department's extramural research and development budget for the past five years. If the Department has exceeded the statutory amount, please report to the Committee what steps Veterans Affairs is taking to participate in the relevant programs as stipulated in section 9 of the Small Business Act.

Please have this information faxed to my office at (202) 228-1814 by July 1, 2005. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this request, please feel free to contact me or have your staff contact Kevin Wheeler, Deputy Democratic Staff Director, at (202) 224-8496. Thank you for your quick response to this inquiry.

Sincerely,



John F. Kerry