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## United States Senate

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

July 14, 2005

### VIA FACSIMILE & FIRST-CLASS MAIL

The Honorable Joshua B. Bolten  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
Executive Office of the President  
17<sup>th</sup> Street & Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20503

Re: Request to Restore SBA's Status as a Major Agency in the Budget

Dear Director Bolten:

I am writing regarding the format of Table S-3 of the President's budget, the "Agency Growth in Discretionary Spending" table. In previous years, the Small Business Administration (SBA) was listed separately as a major agency in the table. However, in the FY2006 budget, as you can see in the enclosed documents, the SBA was not listed as a separate entity. It was downgraded from the status of a major agency and merged into the "Other Agencies" category.

The new format makes it impossible to compare the SBA's current budget with that of previous years and with that of other agencies. For example, we know from the FY2005 budget that from 2001 through 2005 the SBA's budget was cut by 24.7 percent, the largest cut of any agency. The next largest was the Corps of Engineers, which was cut by 15.4 percent. However, this information is not available for 2001 through 2006 because the SBA is no longer listed separately.

For Congress and the public, it is important to put the SBA's budget changes in context. Combining the SBA with other agencies weakens budget transparency and reinforces opinions that the Administration plans to eliminate the SBA and merge its programs into another Federal department. It also raises genuine questions as to whether small business is a priority for this Administration.

For these reasons, I request that the Office of Management and Budget provide the Committee with a chart for the FY2006 budget that separately lists the SBA, and that the Administration return to the old format of listing the SBA as a major agency in future budgets. I understand that providing the FY2006 chart with SBA information is easy for the OMB to produce and therefore ask for a reply by August 1, 2005, to fax 202-228-1814.

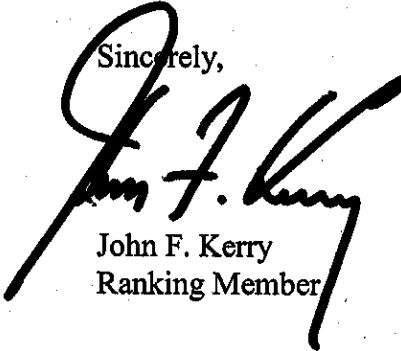
The Honorable Joshua B. Bolten

July 15, 2005

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If for some reason this is not possible, please feel free to contact me or to have someone on your staff contact Ms. Kevin Wheeler of my Committee staff, at 202-224-8496, to discuss an alternative time frame. As always, I thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

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

John F. Kerry  
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Judd Gregg  
The Honorable Kent Conrad

Enclosures: 2 (budget charts)

**Table S-3. Agency Growth in Discretionary Spending**  
(Budget authority, dollar amounts in billions)

Agency	Actual			Estimate		Growth			
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Change	Percent	Average 2001-2005	Cumulative 2001-2005
Agriculture	19.2	20.1	21.7	20.7	19.1	-1.7	-8.1%	-0.2%	-0.9%
Commerce	5.1	5.4	5.6	5.8	5.7	-0.1	-1.0%	2.9%	12.1%
Defense	302.5	327.8	365.3	375.3	401.7	26.5	7.1%	7.3%	32.8%
Education	40.1	48.5	53.1	55.7	57.3	1.7	3.0%	9.3%	43.0%
Energy	20.0	20.9	21.9	23.3	23.6	0.3	1.2%	4.2%	17.7%
Health and Human Services	54.0	59.5	65.7	69.3	68.2	-1.1	-1.6%	6.0%	26.2%
Homeland Security	14.0	15.7	22.0	27.1	28.3	1.3	4.6%	19.3%	102.3%
Housing and Urban Development	28.4	29.4	30.1	30.4	31.3	0.8	2.8%	2.5%	10.3%
Interior	10.3	10.5	10.5	10.6	10.8	0.2	1.9%	1.4%	5.7%
Justice	18.4	18.6	19.0	19.3	18.7	-0.6	-3.1%	0.5%	2.1%
Labor	11.9	12.1	11.8	11.7	11.9	0.1	1.3%	-0.1%	-0.4%
State	7.7	9.0	9.2	9.3	10.3	1.0	10.7%	7.3%	32.8%
Transportation	14.6	12.8	13.5	13.9	13.3	-0.5	-3.9%	-2.1%	-8.3%
Treasury	10.3	10.5	10.7	11.2	10.8	-0.4	-3.6%	1.1%	4.3%
Veterans Affairs	22.4	23.8	26.4	29.1	29.7	0.5	1.8%	7.3%	32.5%
Corps of Engineers	4.7	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.0	-0.6	-13.1%	-4.1%	-15.4%
Environmental Protection Agency	7.8	7.9	8.1	8.4	7.8	-0.6	-7.2%	-0.2%	-1.0%
Executive Office of the President	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.5%	6.8%	30.2%
General Services Administration	0.2	0.2	1.3	0.5	0.2	-0.2	-49.2%	5.3%	22.8%
International Assistance Programs	12.6	12.7	13.6	15.7	19.3	3.7	23.5%	11.3%	53.6%
Judicial Branch	4.0	4.3	4.6	4.8	5.4	0.6	11.5%	7.8%	35.2%
Legislative Branch	2.8	3.0	3.4	3.6	4.0	0.4	12.3%	9.6%	45.4%
NASA	14.3	14.8	15.3	15.4	16.2	0.9	5.6%	3.3%	14.0%
National Science Foundation	4.4	4.8	5.3	5.6	5.7	0.2	3.0%	6.7%	29.7%
Small Business Administration	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	-0.1	-10.4%	-6.8%	-24.7%
Social Security Administration	6.0	6.4	6.7	7.2	7.6	0.4	5.9%	5.9%	25.8%
Other Agencies	7.0	6.8	7.9	8.0	6.5	-1.5	-19.1%	-2.0%	-7.6%
<b>Total, Discretionary Spending</b>	<b>643.8</b>	<b>691.0</b>	<b>758.5</b>	<b>787.3</b>	<b>818.4</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>27.1%</b>
Emergency Response Funds and Supplementals	20.0	43.8	90.9	87.3					

**Table S-3. Growth in Discretionary Budget Authority by Major Agency**  
(Net budget authority; dollar amounts in billions)

Agency	Actual					Estimate			Growth		
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2005-2006	Change Percent	Average	Cumulative	
Agriculture.....	19.2	20.1	21.7	21.1	21.4	19.4	-2.0	-9.6%	0.1%	0.7%	
Commerce.....	5.1	5.4	5.6	5.8	6.3	9.4	3.1	49.0%	13.0%	84.5%	
Defense.....	302.5	327.8	365.3	375.7	400.1	419.3	19.3	4.8%	6.7%	38.6%	
Education.....	40.1	48.5	53.1	55.7	56.6	56.0	-0.5	-0.9%	6.9%	39.8%	
Energy.....	20.0	20.9	22.0	23.4	23.9	23.4	-0.5	-2.0%	3.2%	17.1%	
Health and Human Services.....	54.0	59.5	65.7	69.2	69.2	68.9	-0.3	-0.5%	5.0%	27.5%	
Homeland Security.....	14.0	15.7	21.9	27.9	29.0	29.3	0.3	1.2%	16.0%	109.7%	
Housing and Urban Development.....	28.4	29.4	30.1	32.0	32.2	28.5	-3.7	-11.5%	0.1%	0.5%	
Interior.....	10.3	10.5	10.5	10.7	10.8	10.6	-0.1	-1.1%	0.7%	3.7%	
Justice.....	18.4	18.6	19.0	19.5	20.2	19.1	-1.1	-5.5%	0.8%	3.9%	
Labor.....	11.9	12.1	11.8	11.8	12.0	11.5	-0.5	-4.4%	-0.7%	-3.6%	
State and International Assistance											
Programs.....	20.3	21.7	22.8	25.0	27.5	31.8	4.3	15.7%	9.4%	56.4%	
Transportation.....	14.6	12.8	13.5	13.9	12.7	11.8	-0.9	-6.7%	-4.1%	-18.8%	
Treasury.....	10.3	10.5	10.7	10.7	11.2	11.6	0.4	3.9%	2.4%	12.7%	
Veterans Affairs.....	22.4	23.8	26.4	29.1	30.6	31.3	0.7	2.1%	6.9%	39.8%	
Corps of Engineers.....	4.7	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.3	-0.3	-7.2%	-1.6%	-7.6%	
Environmental Protection Agency.....	7.8	7.9	8.1	8.4	8.0	7.6	-0.5	-5.6%	-0.7%	-3.4%	
Executive Office of the President.....	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	-0.0	-1.7%	4.6%	25.5%	
Judicial Branch.....	4.0	4.3	4.6	4.8	5.1	5.6	0.5	9.9%	7.1%	41.0%	
Legislative Branch.....	2.8	3.0	3.4	3.6	3.6	4.1	0.5	13.7%	8.2%	48.1%	
National Aeronautics and Space Administration.....	14.3	14.8	15.3	15.4	16.1	16.5	0.4	2.4%	2.9%	15.5%	
National Science Foundation.....	4.4	4.8	5.3	5.6	5.5	5.6	0.1	2.4%	4.8%	26.5%	
Social Security Administration.....	6.0	6.4	6.7	7.2	7.5	7.7	0.2	2.6%	4.9%	27.3%	
Other Agencies.....	8.1	7.7	10.0	9.0	8.4	6.6	-1.7	-20.6%	-4.0%	-18.4%	
<b>Total, Discretionary Spending.....</b>	<b>643.8</b>	<b>691.0</b>	<b>758.5</b>	<b>790.1</b>	<b>822.7</b>	<b>840.3</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>5.5%</b>	<b>30.5%</b>	

Note: Supplementals are excluded.