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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

September 1, 2005

The Honorable Hector V. Barreto  
Administrator  
U.S. Small Business Administration  
409 Third Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Administrator Barreto:

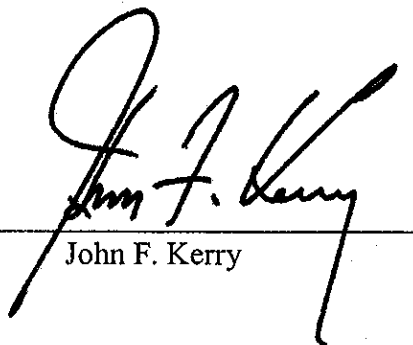
As you know, President Bush has made disaster declarations in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi as a result of Hurricane Katrina. We are writing to urge you to extend the deadline of October 28<sup>th</sup> for applications for Physical Disaster Business Loans from victims of Hurricane Katrina.

While we understand that any business that is located in a declared disaster area and has incurred damage during the disaster may apply for a loan to help repair or replace damaged property to its pre-disaster condition, because of the extent of the devastation caused by the hurricane, it may be difficult for the affected small businesses to apply for this much needed assistance by the required deadline.

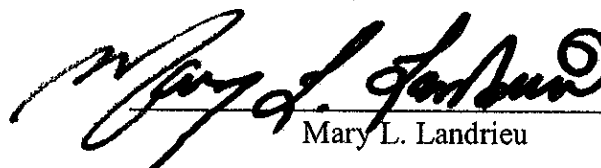
A six month extension of this deadline would allow affected businesses the time that they need to properly recover from this disaster and apply for assistance. We hope that you will extend this deadline immediately so that the small businesses affected by Hurricane Katrina are still eligible to apply for physical disaster loans from the SBA to help their businesses recover from this devastating storm.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



John F. Kerry



Mary L. Landrieu