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United States Senate

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

September 13, 2005

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

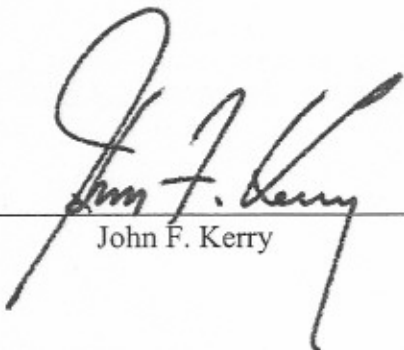
Dear Administrator Barreto:

This letter is following up on the letter that we sent to your office on September 1, 2005. In our September 1 letter to you, we requested that the application deadlines for Physical Disaster Loans for victims of Hurricane Katrina be extended for six months from the original October 28th deadline. We have received no response from your office and request an immediate resolution to our concerns.

Given the scope and severity of this disaster, it is imperative that SBA act expeditiously to assist the disaster victims of Hurricane Katrina. They need sufficient time to apply for the relief that they so desperately need. Three months is simply not enough time for affected businesses to apply for assistance given the scope of the disaster, displacement of victims, and lack of access to resources and documentation. Many other agencies, including the Internal Revenue Service, have already responded to the Katrina disaster by extending the deadlines for application to many of their most important programs. We think that SBA should follow their lead and extend its deadline accordingly. Do it now, rather than waiting until the eleventh hour, which would create unnecessary stress for victims whose homes and businesses have been damaged or destroyed and thus need loans to rebuild. Given everything that they have lost, we believe that you should provide disaster victims with some measure of certainty and security in an otherwise uncertain time following Hurricane Katrina.

We thank you again for your consideration of this request and hope that you will respond by immediately extending this deadline.

Sincerely,



John F. Kerry



Mary L. Landrieu