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

May 17, 2006

**VIA FACSIMILE & FIRST-CLASS MAIL**

Honorable W. Mitt Romney  
Governor  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
State House  
Room 360  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Romney:

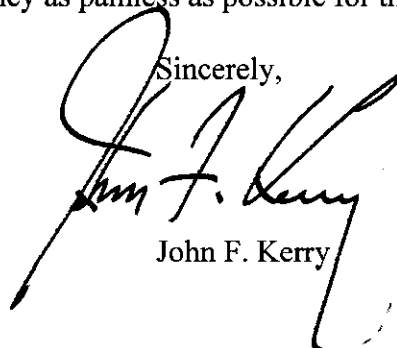
I am writing to urge you in your capacity as Governor to request a physical disaster declaration from the Small Business Administration for those counties adversely impacted by the recent storms.

Though the rains have subsided, the needs of small business and home owners are growing with every passing moment. Families are left displaced from their homes and our small business owners are left wondering how they can stay open. These are not concerns that can be postponed. As cities and towns dedicate their resources to immediate response, we should ensure that we provide Massachusetts small business owners and homeowners with all of the tools that are available to rebuild their lives. The Small Business Administration can play an integral role in this process.

Despite not yet having accurate accounts of the total damage, it is apparent that the damage to homes and businesses in Massachusetts will meet the thresholds set by the Small Business Administration for a disaster declaration. In the event that the President declares a Major Disaster, the disaster loan program will be triggered automatically; however we should take every precaution to ensure that Massachusetts residents have access to the capital necessary to rebuild their homes and businesses, and that they receive that access expeditiously.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. As ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I share your commitment to Massachusetts small businesses, and believe we have a responsibility to make the aftermath of this emergency as painless as possible for the victims of these storms.

Sincerely,



John F. Kerry