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United States Senate

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

May 24, 2006

The Honorable Carlos M. Gutierrez
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
Herbert Clark Hoover Building
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Gutierrez:

On May 13, 2004, President Bush signed Executive Order 13339, which created within the Department of Commerce the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (Commission). This Commission was established for two years in an effort to improve and increase economic and business opportunities within Asian American and Pacific Islander communities nationwide. In a recent speech honoring Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month, the President spoke about the importance of this Commission, which he recently renewed for another year.

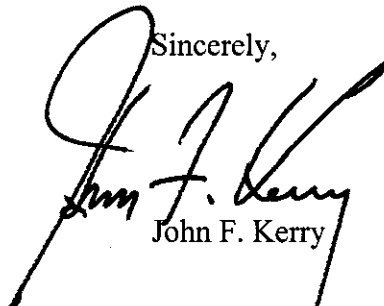
As Section 2 of the E.O. states, the Commission advises the President on:

“the development, monitoring, and coordination of executive branch efforts to improve the economic and community development of Asian American and Pacific Islander businesses through ensuring equal opportunity to participate in Federal programs, [... as well as ...] ways to increase the business diversification of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, including ways to foster research and data on Asian American and Pacific Islander businesses[.]”

Given the important contributions Asian Americans and Pacific Islander businesses have made, and continue to make in our society and economy, I am writing to request that the Department of Commerce provide information on the Commission's progress since its inception in 2004. Specifically, I am interested in any findings and/or statistics the Commission has collected on Asian American and Pacific Islander businesses, as well as what steps the Department of Commerce and other agencies have taken to ensure that these groups are given equal access to participate in Federal programs.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Nigel Stephens of my Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship staff at (202) 224-8496.

Sincerely,



John F. Kerry