

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 25, 2006

The Honorable Olympia Snowe
Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
Washington, D.C. 20510-6350

Dear Chair Snowe:

As the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship begins the reauthorization process for the Small Business Administration, we write to request that you consider including the Native American Small Business Development Act, S. 1907, in the reauthorization legislation that the Committee will likely mark-up in the coming months.

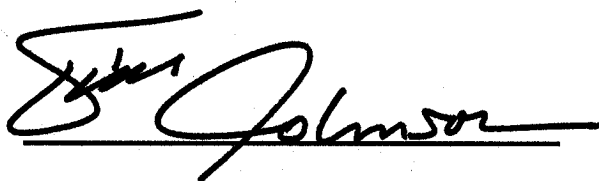
As you will recall, the Committee included this legislation as part of the Small Business Administration 50th Anniversary Reauthorization Act of 2003, which then passed the Senate unanimously. Unfortunately, when the reauthorization was included as part of the Omnibus Appropriations conference report, the Native American Small Business Development language was not included.

Data from the U.S. Census Bureau indicates that nearly one-quarter of the country's American Indian and Native Alaskan population lives in poverty. At the same time, the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy reports that the American Indian and Native Alaskan ethnic group is the fastest growing business group in the country. This is a promising trend, and it is important that we continue to promote the growth of entrepreneurship within the Native American community as a means of escaping poverty.

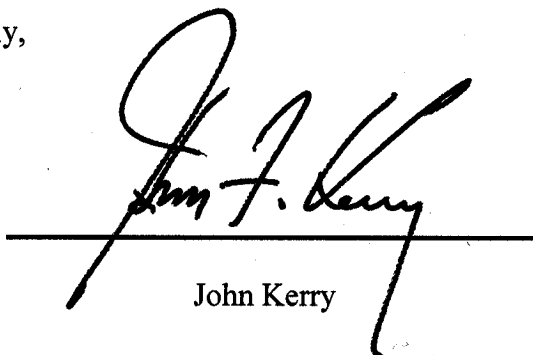
Our legislation would provide a comprehensive business assistance package to the Native American community. We believe that it would be a mistake not to address the needs of the Native American community when we are examining the needs of all of America's entrepreneurs during this reauthorization.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Tim Johnson



John Kerry