



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Secretary of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

April 7, 2009

The Honorable Mary L. Landrieu
Chairwoman, Committee on Small Business
and Entrepreneurship
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

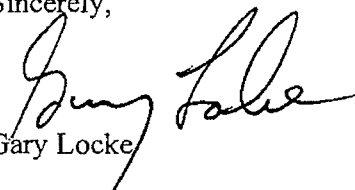
Thank you for your letter regarding improved coordination by Federal agencies of programs that help manufacturers hit hard by the economic crisis.

As your letter notes, there is already significant coordination. For example, through the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program and the Economic Development Administration, the Department of Commerce has a long history of working with the Small Business Administration and the Department of Labor in meeting the needs of the Nation's manufacturers. Together, these agencies have expanded grant opportunities, developed the skills of manufacturing workers, and co-founded an interagency organization focused on sharing information and establishing strategic relationships that cross organizational boundaries.

Moving forward, we are committed to identifying new and expanded areas of collaboration that will provide the manufacturing industry with tools and services to address their most pressing needs in the current economic environment, including finance options and expanded workforce support. Acting Assistant Secretary for Manufacturing and Services Mary Saunders will provide you a status report on our increased coordination within 30 days.

I look forward to working with you to help our manufacturing sector, including small businesses and entrepreneurs. If you have any further questions, please contact me or James R. Schufreider, Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663.

Sincerely,


Gary Locke

cc: The Honorable Hilda L. Solis, Secretary of Labor
Mr. Darryl K. Hairston, Acting Administrator, U.S. Small Business Administration