

SECRETARY OF LABOR  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20210

APR 20 2009

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The Honorable Mary L. Landrieu  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6350

Dear Chairwoman Landrieu: *Mary*

Thank you for your recent letter, co-signed by Ranking Member Olympia Snowe, emphasizing the need for increased communication and collaboration between the Small Business Administration, the Department of Commerce, and the Department of Labor to better serve small businesses and workers in the manufacturing industry. I wholeheartedly share your views.

The Employment and Training Administration is responsible for programs under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and the Trade Adjustment Assistance for Workers program under the Trade Act of 1974 (the TAA program). The WIA programs provide employment and training assistance for workers in a challenging and changing economy. State and local Workforce Investment Boards provide an excellent venue for small businesses, labor organizations, economic development entities and other partners to work collaboratively to address the needs of the manufacturing industry. As Congress considers the reauthorization of WIA, we will be mindful of the workforce needs of small businesses in the manufacturing sector to support competitiveness in a global economy.

The TAA program provides training, income support, and other reemployment assistance to trade-affected workers. TAA, as recently reauthorized under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, expands both TAA coverage and benefits.

The Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training will be an important component of increased communication and coordination. I look forward to working with our Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training to achieve this goal once that candidate is confirmed for this position. The Department's Office of Small Business Programs will also play an important role in our efforts. In closing, please be assured that we are committed to serving the needs of small business manufacturers and their workers through coordination with other federal agencies.

Sincerely,



HILDA L. SOLIS  
Secretary of Labor