

CHRISTOPHER S. BOND, MISSOURI, CHAIRMAN

CONRAD R. BURNS, MONTANA
PAUL COVERDELL, GEORGIA
ROBERT F. BENNETT, UTAH
OLYMPIA J. SNOWE, MAINE
MICHAEL ENZI, WYOMING
PETER G. FITZGERALD, ILLINOIS
MIKE CRAPO, IDAHO
GEORGE V. VOINOVICH, OHIO
SPENCER ABRAHAM, MICHIGAN

JOHN F. KERRY, MASSACHUSETTS
CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN
TOM HARKIN, IOWA
JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN, CONNECTICUT
PAUL D. WELLSTONE, MINNESOTA
MAX CLELAND, GEORGIA
MARY LANDRIEU, LOUISIANA
JOHN EDWARDS, NORTH CAROLINA

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

EMILIA DISANTO, STAFF DIRECTOR

PATRICIA R. FORBES, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

March 17, 2000

The Honorable Louis Freeh
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
J. Edgar Hoover Building
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Director Freeh:

On March 9, 2000, the Senate Committee on Small Business (Committee) held a forum entitled "CyberCrime: Can a Small Business Protect Itself?" The Committee heard testimony from a small business that had been the victim of a computer crime and from knowledgeable experts from the United States Secret Service, PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLC and Cisco Systems. The forum also included representatives of sixteen small business trade associations who had an opportunity to ask questions and to provide comments.

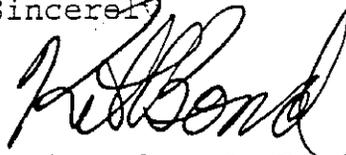
As a result of the information we received during the forum, it is clear that small businesses across the country are inadequately prepared to protect themselves from computer criminals. This is compounded by the perspective of many small businesses that it is a complex problem that costs a lot of money to fix. One of the lessons of the Y2K computing crisis was that small businesses were the least prepared and least informed business sector. In many respects, I am concerned that necessary outreach to the small business community is not being undertaken with that lesson in mind.

Accordingly, I request that the National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC) at the Federal Bureau of Investigation increase its efforts to educate small business by partnering with the small business trade associations. I also request that the NIPC coordinate with the Small Business Administration to utilize their business development and education programs to provide timely and accurate information about this problem. It is important that the message of prevention be communicated more effectively than it has been to date. I believe that the

knowledge and experience of the dedicated staff at the NIPC can be of considerable assistance to the small business community.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter and I would appreciate receiving your response to my request by April 3, 2000. If you have any questions or would like additional information on the Committee's forum, please contact me or have your staff call Paul Conlon at 202-224-5175. I look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Bond", written in a cursive style.

Christopher S. Bond
Chairman

cc:
Michael Vatis