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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

March 17, 2000

The Honorable Janet Reno  
Attorney General  
Department of Justice  
Main Justice Building, Room 5111  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Reno:

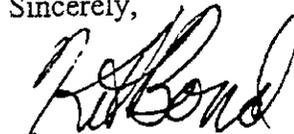
On March 9, 2000, the Senate Committee on Small Business (Committee) held a forum entitled "CyberCrime: Can a Small Business Protect Itself?" The Committee heard testimony from a small business that had been the victim of a computer crime and from knowledgeable experts from the United States Secret Service, 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 an impediment to the reporting of a computer-related crime is the lack of a central reporting point. The overlapping jurisdiction of the relevant law enforcement agencies has created confusion in the business community as to where they should report a computer crime.

Accordingly, I request that the Department of Justice explore the creation of a toll-free number, for example 1-800-WEB-CRIME, that would act as a single point of contact for all law enforcement for computer-related crimes. I believe that creation of a toll-free number similar to the one currently in use by the Federal Trade Commission, 1-877-FTC-HELP, would improve the reporting of incidents to law enforcement and would provide for better coordination among law enforcement. In addition, it would be a valuable service to the country's small businesses.

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,



Christopher S. Bond  
Chairman