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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

November 19, 1999

The Honorable Aida Alvarez
Administrator
Small Business Administration
409 Third Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Ms. Alvarez:

Thank you for your letter dated November 19, 1999. Your letter, however, is not responsive to my letter dated November 9, 1999, which requested that you provide me with a copy of the "draft" report prepared by the Farm Credit Administration (FCA) as part of its examination of the SBA-licensed Small Business Lending Companies (SBLCs) and submitted to the Small Business Administration (SBA). In addition, I requested on November 9, 1999, that your response to my request include all letters, memoranda and other communications prepared by SBA in response to the FCA "draft" report.

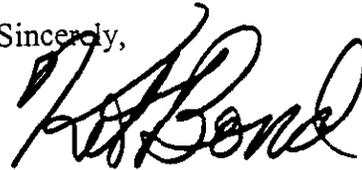
Since my November 9th letter to you, my staff has telephoned your staff daily in an attempt to obtain the documents requested. As you may recall, I requested that you provide the draft report to me no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, November 12, 1999 -- one week ago. Overall, SBA's handling of my request for FCA's draft report is unsettling.

Today, I was informed that the "final" FCA report is available for Committee review at SBA's offices. Interestingly, there is no mention of my request for the "draft" report. Therefore, I now request that SBA make both the "draft" report and "final" report available no later than 5 p.m. today. If necessary, I will send Committee staff members to your office to obtain the reports. In addition, the Agency's counsel should discuss procedures with the Committee's Chief Counsel, Paul Cooksey, about handling and storage of these documents in light of SBA's concerns. Please be assured that the Committee will handle the information with all appropriate care. I am also at this time repeating my request for all letters, memoranda and other communications prepared by SBA in response to the FCA "draft" and "final" reports on the SBLC examinations.

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Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Bond". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "C" and "B".

Christopher S. Bond
Chairman