

PAUL D. COVERDELL
GEORGIA

CONFERENCE SECRETARY

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1004

April 20, 2000

CHAIRMAN:
HEALTH CARE SUBCOMMITTEE
FINANCE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN:
MARKETING, INSPECTION AND
PRODUCT PROMOTION SUBCOMMITTEE
AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Honorable Christopher Bond
Chairman
Committee on Small Business
428-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

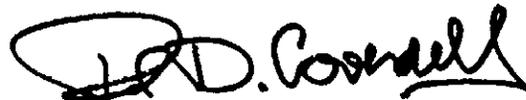
As a member of the Committee on Small Business, which has primary oversight responsibility for the Small Business Administration (SBA), I am writing to express my concern about management failures at the SBA.

In particular, it has been reported to me that the SBA Administrator travels extensively and is absent from headquarters for considerable periods of time. As a result, I am concerned that the Committee's efforts to streamline and modernize the SBA will be jeopardized due to the lack of attention from the Administrator. Without an Administrator actively and personally attending to the many problems that plague her agency, as well as the day-to-day operations of the agency, we can have little hope that the SBA can fully accomplish its mission of serving the needs of American small businesses.

You have invested considerable time and effort to undertake meaningful oversight of the SBA, and I would like to provide whatever assistance I can to you and the Committee in your ongoing efforts to turn this troubled agency around. In particular, I am interested in examining the justification for the Administrator's extensive travel and ways to encourage a more active role for the SBA's senior management.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. If you have any questions please contact me or have your staff call Ziad Ojakli, my Chief of Staff, at 202-224- . I look forward to working with you on these important issues.

Sincerely,



Paul D. Coverdell
United States Senator

PDC/tcf