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# AWBC

October 15, 2001

Senator John Kerry  
Senator Christopher Bond

Representative Donald Manzullo  
Representative Jim Moran

Dear Senator Kerry, Senator Bond, Representative Manzullo and Representative Moran,

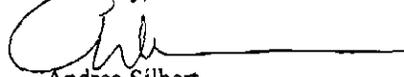
On behalf of the Association of Women's Business Centers, serving tens of thousands of women owned businesses through the 90 SBA-funded women's business centers across the country, I offer our strong support of and appreciation for the *American Small Business Emergency Relief and Recovery Act of 2001*. We recognize with gratitude your leadership and your attendance to the needs of our nation's small and emerging businesses in this time of crisis, particularly the women that we serve.

The unfortunate events of September 11<sup>th</sup> and the economic downturn that has been exacerbated by these events have had a profound impact on us and our clients. Many of the businesses that we have assisted have never seen a recession, much less the kind of disaster that September 11<sup>th</sup> represents to those in impacted industries.

Women-owned small businesses, in aggregate started more recently than male-owned businesses, have clearly been adversely affected as a result of these events--as have our women's business centers, with a higher demand from clients due to this state of affairs and less resources to meet them due to the difficulties suddenly facing many major corporate and individual donors. The provisions for loans and technical assistance funds contained in the Small Business Emergency Relief and Recovery Act of 2001 will be vital to the work that we do over the upcoming weeks and months.

Thank you for helping us and the women that we serve to face this difficult time. We look forward to continuing to work with you to strengthen our economy and our nation.

Sincerely,



Andrea Silbert  
President, AWBC