

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

1615 H STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20062-2000
202/463-5310

October 12, 2001

The Honorable John Kerry
Chairman
Small Business Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to thank you for introducing S. 1499, "The American Small Business Emergency Relief and Recovery Act of 2001," on October 8, 2001, and pledge the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's support for this important bill that provides much needed relief to many of America's small business owners.

As a direct result of the events of September 11, many small businesses have been physically and economically devastated. Because of the unique character of this disaster, many of the existing programs meant to act as a "safety net" to the small business community have been found to be inadequate or not available. Your bill, "The American Small Business Emergency Relief and Recovery Act of 2001," serves to correct these inequities and provide the economic tools necessary for many small business owners to recover from this tragedy.

For those small business owners whose enterprises have been shattered by the repercussions of the economic shockwave from ground zero, we must extend the lifeline of assistance in the form of expanded Small Business Administration low-interest loans and programs. We must not let the recent tragedies serve to dampen the drive and determination of our nation's existing small business owners who may be struggling financially as a result of the events of September 11.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world's largest business federation, representing more than three million businesses of every size, sector, and region. More than 96 percent of the Chamber's members are small businesses with 100 or fewer employees. On behalf of these small employers, I again thank you for introducing S. 1499, "The American Small Business Emergency Relief and Recovery Act of 2001."

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten