



WASHINGTON OFFICE

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

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FAX DATE: November 1, 2001

The Honorable John F. Kerry
Chairman
Senate Committee on Small Business
SR-428A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of the County of San Diego to strongly support legislation to relieve the economic dislocation experienced by airport-related businesses as a result of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Thank you for introducing S. 1499, the *American Small Business Emergency Relief and Recovery Act of 2001*. This legislation addresses the unfortunate reality that the economic fallout of the terrorist attacks has rippled throughout the aviation industry. San Diego County airports, along with the rest of the nation, have been affected. Numerous businesses that are sited at airports, or that rely on airport activity, face financial difficulties, lay-offs or bankruptcies.

Legislation such as S. 1499 will help concessionaires and other businesses dependent on airport operations to meet their payments, obtain financing and preserve jobs. The recovery loans that will be made available through S. 1499 would be useful tools to help businesses survive these difficult times and preserve this important sector of the economy.

Please continue to work for assistance through the Small Business Administration to restore economic health to airport-related businesses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas P. Walters".

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

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