

To strengthen
and promote
cities as centers
of opportunity,
leadership, and
governance.



**National League
of Cities**

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October 30, 2001

Dear Senator:

On behalf of 138,000 local elected officials, the National League of Cities (NLC) strongly urges you and your colleagues to support and push for immediate consideration of S. 1499, the American Small Business Emergency Relief and Recovery Act of 2001.

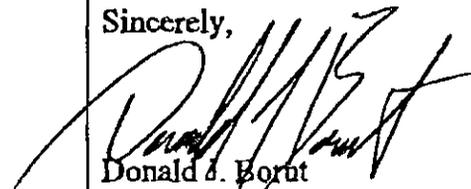
In the wake of September 11, cities nationwide have reported stress to local economies and city finances, and have indicated that a decline in local business is one of their greatest concerns. In a recent letter to Senator Daschle and members of the Senate Finance and Budget Committees, NLC urged inclusion of small business relief in any economic stimulus package.

S. 1499 would help the efforts of lending institutions, community organizations and local public agencies in providing assistance to small businesses. The measure would expand access to Small Business Administration (SBA) low-interest or no-cost recovery loans to small businesses that were directly or indirectly affected by the attacks, and those in need of capital and investment financing or procurement assistance.

NLC has always supported adequate federal assistance to new and existing small businesses, and this emergency legislation reflects an important and timely effort by Congress to recognize the impact of these attacks on local economies nationwide by helping mitigate bankruptcies, business closures, and lay-offs.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Scott Shrum in our office at 202-626-3033.

Sincerely,



Donald J. Borut
Executive Director