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THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
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Stephen J. McGrail  
Director

July 25, 2002

The Honorable John F. Kerry  
United States Senate  
Russell Office Building, Room 304  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Small Business Drought Relief Act

Dear Senator Kerry:

On behalf of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your leadership in sponsoring the above referenced emergency legislation.

As the Director of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency and co-chair of the Massachusetts Drought Task Force, I know all too well the devastating effects of drought. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has suffered the effects of a drought for well over a year. Droughts are a cruel phenomenon of nature and require assistance in order to recover from its effects. At this time, small, non-farm businesses are currently ineligible to receive Federal assistance under both the Small Business Administration's disaster loan program and the Department of Agriculture's disaster program. Small businesses in Massachusetts are suffering from this ineligibility, and an amendment to the Small Business Act that would recognize drought as a disaster and provide low-interest loans to those suffering businesses, would be invaluable.

We applaud your leadership on this issue and look forward to the legislation being passed.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. McGrail  
Director  
Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

