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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6350

October 30, 2007

Mr. David M. Walker
Comptroller General
Office of the Comptroller General
Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW, 7100
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Walker,

It has recently come to my attention that the Government Accountability Office has received a request from Representatives Heath Schuler, Jeff Fortenberry, Steve Chabot and Vern Buchanan to investigate the coordination between the United States Department of Agriculture and the Small Business Administration in addressing the needs of small businesses in rural America. I am writing to request that I be included as a co-requestor to this study.

As the Chairman of the Small Business Committee, I am very interested in learning more about the needs of entrepreneurs and small businesses in rural American. One fifth of the nation's population live in over 2,000 rural counties—including in Berkshire, Franklin Hampshire and Hampden County in Massachusetts. Determining the best way to support economic development in these areas as they adjust to the changing global economy is vital for preserving these communities and strengthening the nation's economy.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please have your staff contact Karen Radermacher on my staff at (202) 224-8482. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

John F. Kerry