



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

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May 21, 2009

The Honorable Mary L. Landrieu  
Chair  
Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Landrieu:

Thank you for your letter of May 11, 2009. United States telecommunications policy toward Cuba and the potential opportunities it creates for U.S. small businesses is an important issue.

The Department of the Treasury currently is in the process of revising its Cuban Assets Control Regulations to implement the President's April 13, 2009 initiative, which is intended to promote greater contact between separated family members in the United States and Cuba and to increase the flow of remittances and information to the Cuban people. We appreciate your concern for U.S. small business interests in Cuba and agree that small businesses deserve a level playing field for new opportunities there. Any new authorizations or licenses related to telecommunications transactions involving Cuba will apply equally to all U.S. businesses. To the extent your comments relate to small business promotion and small business loans — which are matters traditionally outside the expertise and regulatory authority of the Department of the Treasury — we defer to the Department of Commerce and the Small Business Administration.

Your views and those of your colleagues on this issue and others are always appreciated, and I look forward to continuing to work with you in the future to address issues of mutual concern.

Sincerely,



Timothy F. Geithner