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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

March 21, 2002

The Honorable Hector V. Barreto
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 Third Street, SW
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Administrator Barreto:

I am writing to follow up on a letter sent to my office on March 4, 2003, regarding the National Small Business Development Center Advisory Board. I want to express my concern that the Board is not fully staffed, and has been without its full membership for more than a year. It is my understanding that the Board is therefore unable to fulfill its statutory duties under the Small Business Act (Section 21(i)(2)).

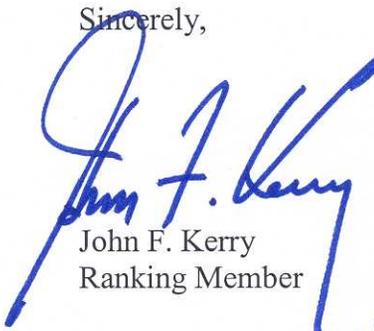
The Board is very important to the administration of the SBDC network. In my oversight capacity as Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship, I request the following information be submitted to the Committee no later than Friday, March 28, 2003:

- 1) The names of the current six members of the Board including the three recent appointees, including their affiliation with a small business, association, or university, and their appointment date and expected expiration of term;
- 2) The names, affiliations, and expected appointment dates for potential appointees to fill the three open positions;
- 3) The names, affiliations, appointment dates, and termination dates, of any Board members in the last two years who left the Board before the end of their three-year term, including reasons for their departure or termination from the Board;
- 4) The date of and participants in the last meeting of the full, nine-member Board and its cost;
- 5) Any subsequent meetings, including the list of participating Board members and the cost of each meeting;
- 6) The names and affiliations of candidates who declined to accept appointment to the Board in the last two years, including reasons for their declining; and

7) A description of difficulties the SBA has had in filling open positions on the Board, and the date the Administration expects the Board's nine-member panel to be filled.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter. Please feel free to contact me, or Marc Comer of my Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee staff, at (202) 224-8496, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



John F. Kerry
Ranking Member