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MARK PRYOR, ARKANSAS

MARK E. WARREN, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL
PATRICIA R. FORBES, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL

United States Senate

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

October 14, 2003

BY FACSIMILE
ORIGINAL BY U.S. MAIL

The Honorable Marianne Lamont Horinko
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Acting Administrator:

At our request, the U.S. General Accounting Office prepared a study of Federal agency compliance with Section 15(k)(3) of the Small Business Act, which requires the Director of an Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) to be responsible only to, and report directly to, the head or deputy head, of the agency. The compliance review of twenty-four Federal agencies found that the Environmental Protection Agency is not in compliance with the law.

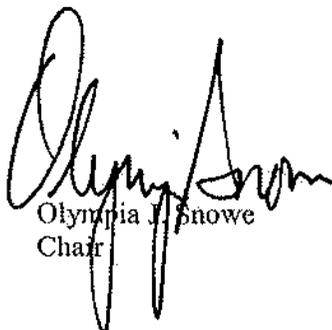
As you know, OSDBUs are central to the contracting goals established by the Small Business Act, which directs that small businesses receive a fair proportion of Federal procurement through vigorous action on the part of agencies. For the past two years, however, the Federal government has failed to meet the 23 percent small business procurement goal, and has repeatedly failed in the areas of women-owned, service-disabled veteran-owned, 8(a) and HUBZone small businesses goals.

Immediate access to the agency head or second in command is critical to an OSDBU's ability to advocate effectively for small and disadvantaged business participation in Federal contracting. Any effort to reduce the stature and standing of the OSDBU would be contrary to congressional intent and detrimental to the small-business community.

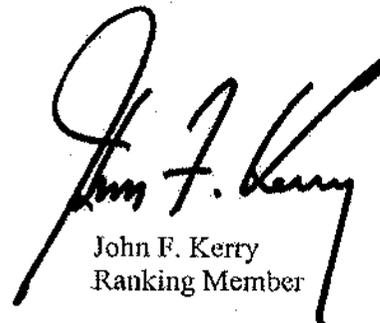
We are greatly concerned to learn that your Department is not in compliance with Section 15(k)(3). Accordingly, we would appreciate hearing from you by Friday, October 31, 2003, on the steps you are taking to bring your agency into compliance.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call either of us or have your staff contact Nancyellen Gentile with Senator Snowe or Marc Comer with Senator Kerry at (202) 224-5175.

Sincerely,



Olympia J. Snowe
Chair



John F. Kerry
Ranking Member

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United States Senate

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

October 14, 2003

BY FACSIMILE
ORIGINAL BY U.S. MAIL

The Honorable John W. Snow
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Mr. Secretary:

At our request, the U.S. General Accounting Office prepared a study of Federal agency compliance with Section 15(k)(3) of the Small Business Act, which requires the Director of an Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) to be responsible only to, and report directly to, the head or deputy head, of the agency. The compliance review of twenty-four Federal agencies found that the Department of the Treasury is not in compliance with the law.

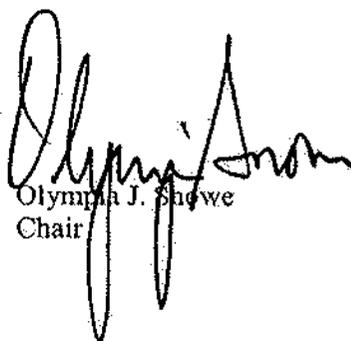
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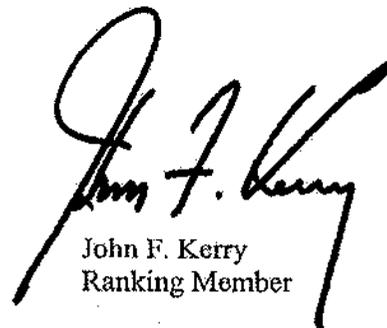
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We are greatly concerned to learn that your Department is not in compliance with Section 15(k)(3). Accordingly, we would appreciate hearing from you by Friday, October 31, 2003, on the steps you are taking to bring your agency into compliance.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call either of us or have your staff contact Nancyellen Gentile with Senator Snowe or Marc Comer with Senator Kerry at (202) 224-5175.

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John F. Kerry
Ranking Member

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United States Senate

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

October 14, 2003

BY FACSIMILE
ORIGINAL BY U.S. MAIL

The Honorable Gale Norton
Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Madam Secretary:

At our request, the U.S. General Accounting Office prepared a study of Federal agency compliance with Section 15(k)(3) of the Small Business Act, which requires the Director of an Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) to be responsible only to, and report directly to, the head or deputy head, of the agency. The compliance review of twenty-four Federal agencies found that the Department of the Interior is not in compliance with the law.

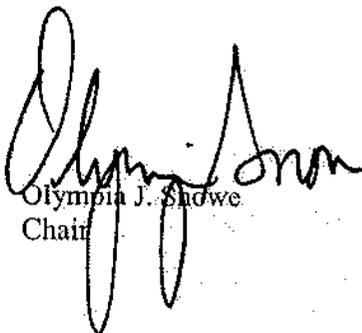
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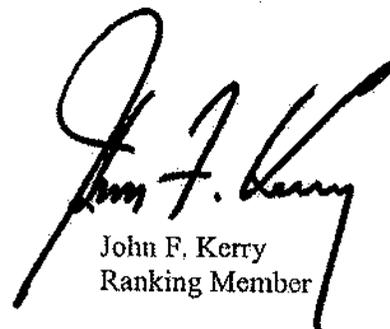
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Ranking Member

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United States Senate

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

October 14, 2003

BY FACSIMILE
ORIGINAL BY U.S. MAIL.

The Honorable Colin L. Powell
Department of State
2201 C St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

At our request, the U.S. General Accounting Office prepared a study of Federal agency compliance with Section 15(k)(3) of the Small Business Act, which requires the Director of an Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) to be responsible only to, and report directly to, the head or deputy head, of the agency. The compliance review of twenty-four Federal agencies found that the Department of State is not in compliance with the law.

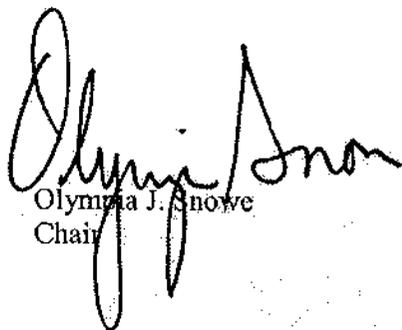
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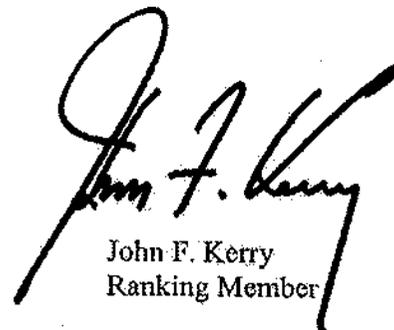
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Olympia J. Snowe
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John F. Kerry
Ranking Member

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United States Senate

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

October 14, 2003

BY FACSIMILE
ORIGINAL BY U.S. MAIL

The Honorable John Ashcroft
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

At our request, the U.S. General Accounting Office prepared a study of Federal agency compliance with Section 15(k)(3) of the Small Business Act, which requires the Director of an Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) to be responsible only to, and report directly to, the head or deputy head, of the agency. The compliance review of twenty-four Federal agencies found that the Department of Justice is not in compliance with the law.

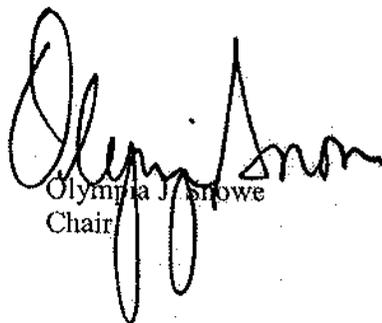
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United States Senate
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WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

October 14, 2003

BY FACSIMILE
ORIGINAL BY U.S. MAIL

The Honorable Tommy G. Thompson
Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Mr. Secretary:

At our request, the U.S. General Accounting Office prepared a study of Federal agency compliance with Section 15(k)(3) of the Small Business Act, which requires the Director of an Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) to be responsible only to, and report directly to, the head or deputy head, of the agency. The compliance review of twenty-four Federal agencies found that the Department of Health & Human Services is not in compliance with the law.

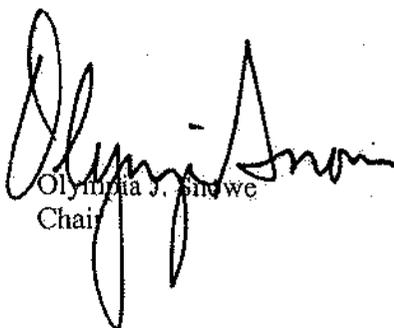
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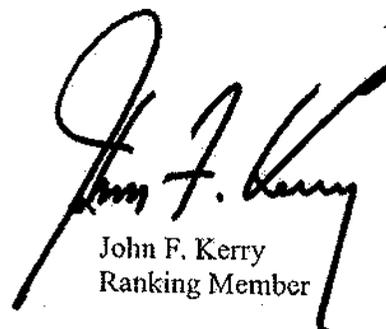
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Sincerely,


Olympia J. Snowe
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John F. Kerry
Ranking Member

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United States Senate

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

October 14, 2003

BY FACSIMILE
ORIGINAL BY U.S. MAIL

The Honorable Roderick Paige
Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-0498

Dear Mr. Secretary:

At our request, the U.S. General Accounting Office prepared a study of Federal agency compliance with Section 15(k)(3) of the Small Business Act, which requires the Director of an Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) to be responsible only to, and report directly to, the head or deputy head, of the agency. The compliance review of twenty-four Federal agencies found that the Department of Education is not in compliance with the law.

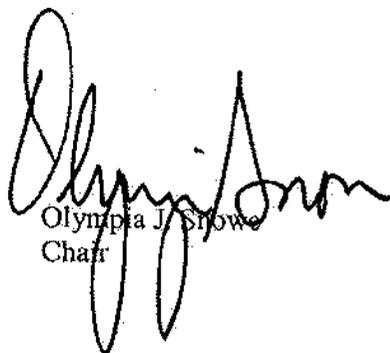
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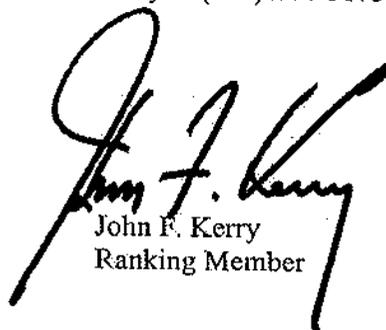
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John F. Kerry
Ranking Member

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United States Senate

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

October 14, 2003

BY FACSIMILE
ORIGINAL BY U.S. MAIL

The Honorable Donald Evans
Department of Commerce
14th & Constitution, Room 5421
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary:

At our request, the U.S. General Accounting Office prepared a study of Federal agency compliance with Section 15(k)(3) of the Small Business Act, which requires the Director of an Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) to be responsible only to, and report directly to, the head or deputy head, of the agency. The compliance review of twenty-four Federal agencies found that the Department of Commerce is not in compliance with the law.

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WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

October 14, 2003

BY FACSIMILE
ORIGINAL BY U.S. MAIL

The Honorable Ann M. Veneman
Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Madam Secretary:

At our request, the U.S. General Accounting Office prepared a study of Federal agency compliance with Section 15(k)(3) of the Small Business Act, which requires the Director of an Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) to be responsible only to, and report directly to, the head or deputy head, of the agency. The compliance review of twenty-four Federal agencies found that the Department of Agriculture is not in compliance with the law.

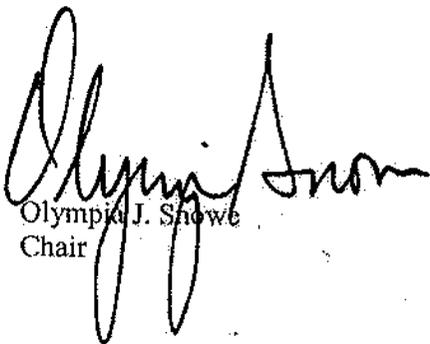
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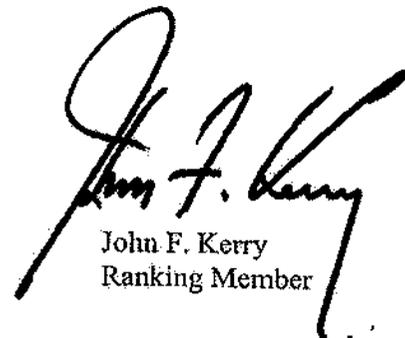
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We are greatly concerned to learn that your Department is not in compliance with Section 15(k)(3). Accordingly, we would appreciate hearing from you by Friday, October 31, 2003, on the steps you are taking to bring your agency into compliance.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call either of us or have your staff contact Nancyellen Gentile with Senator Snowe or Marc Comer with Senator Kerry at (202) 224-5175.

Sincerely,


Olympia J. Snowe
Chair


John F. Kerry
Ranking Member

OLYMPIA J. SNOWE, MAINE, CHAIR
JOHN F. KERRY, MASSACHUSETTS, RANKING MEMBER

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CONRAD BURNS, MONTANA	TOM HARKIN, IOWA
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JOHN ENSIGN, NEVADA	MARK PRYOR, ARKANSAS
NORM COLEMAN, MINNESOTA	

MARK E. WARREN, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL
PATRICIA R. FORBES, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL

United States Senate

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

October 14, 2003

BY FACSIMILE
ORIGINAL BY U.S. MAIL

The Honorable Jo Anne B. Barnhart
Social Security Administration
6401 Security Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21235

Dear Madam Commissioner:

At our request, the U.S. General Accounting Office prepared a study of Federal agency compliance with Section 15(k)(3) of the Small Business Act, which requires the Director of an Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) to be responsible only to, and report directly to, the head or deputy head, of the agency. The compliance review of twenty-four Federal agencies found that the Social Security Administration is not in compliance with the law.

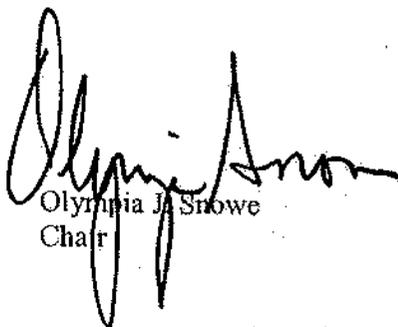
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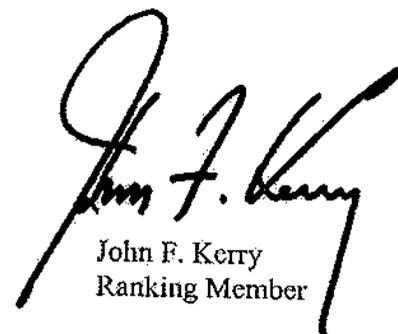
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We are greatly concerned to learn that your Department is not in compliance with Section 15(k)(3). Accordingly, we would appreciate hearing from you by Friday, October 31, 2003, on the steps you are taking to bring your agency into compliance.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call either of us or have your staff contact Nancyellen Gentile with Senator Snowe or Marc Comer with Senator Kerry at (202) 224-5175.

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United States Senate

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

October 14, 2003

BY FACSIMILE
ORIGINAL BY U.S. MAIL

The Honorable Michael D. Brown
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Department of Homeland Security
500 C St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Mr. Under Secretary:

At our request, the U.S. General Accounting Office prepared a study of Federal agency compliance with Section 15(k)(3) of the Small Business Act, which requires the Director of an Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) to be responsible only to, and report directly to, the head or deputy head, of the agency. The compliance review of twenty-four Federal agencies found that the Federal Emergency Management Agency is not in compliance with the law.

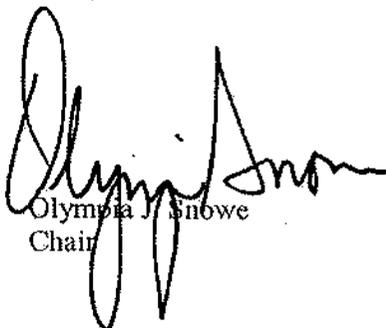
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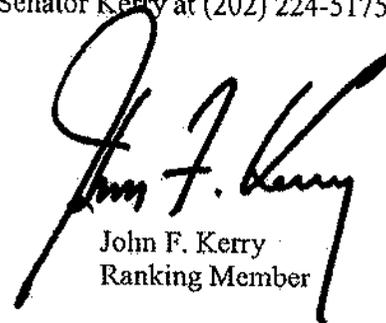
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