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United States Senate

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

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April 13, 2004

The Honorable Hector V. Barreto
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Administrator Barreto:

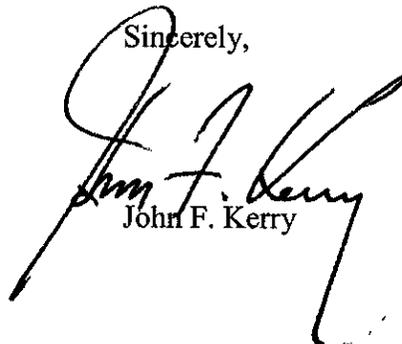
Pursuant to section 10 of the Small Business Act, 15 U.S.C. 639, the Small Business Administration is required to respond to oversight requests made by the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

On March 24, 2004, the Committee sent the SBA an oversight letter requesting information regarding the Telecommunications Development Fund and the small business representative on the Board of the Fund. To date, the SBA has not responded to the inquiry although the deadline for its response was Friday, April 2, 2004.

As you are well aware, the TDF is an extremely important entity in helping small businesses receive the assistance they need to effectively compete in the telecommunications market. The intent of including an SBA official on the TDF Board was to ensure that small businesses' interests were represented in all of the Board's activities, especially those related to fair access to the telecommunications market. It is imperative that the SBA respond promptly to the request in order to assist the Committee in its oversight of the TDF and its efforts to meet the needs of the small business community.

Thank you for addressing this important issue. I look forward to your prompt response. If you or your staff have any questions or concerns regarding this request, please contact Nigel Stephens of my Committee staff at (202) 224-8496.

Sincerely,



John F. Kerry