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

December 17, 2001

The Honorable Hector Barreto
Administrator, Small Business Administration
409 Third Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Administrator Barreto:

In the Small Business Reauthorization Act of 2000 (Appendix I of Public Law 106-554), the Congress created new authority for contracting officers to set-aside contracts for competition restricted to women-owned business concerns that are economically disadvantaged, if the contracting officer has a reasonable expectation that two or more such firms will submit offers for the contract. The requirement that the eligible firms be economically disadvantaged may be waived under the statute, if the contract relates to an industry in which women-owned small businesses are "substantially underrepresented." The Administrator is to conduct a study to determine the industries that demonstrate such substantial underrepresentation.

Prior to release of such study, and prior to publication in the Federal Register of proposed, interim, or final rules to implement this set-aside authority, I and my Small Business Committee staff wish to be briefed on the contents and findings of that study and those regulations.

Moreover, prior to publication of proposed, interim, or final rules relating to the relationship between the HUBZone and 8(a) programs, particularly with respect to the matter of parity between those two programs, I and my Small Business Committee staff wish to be briefed on the contents of those regulations.

If you have questions about these requests, please contact Cordell Smith of my Senate Small Business Committee staff on (202)224-

Sincerely,

Christopher S. Bond
Ranking Member

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