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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6350

June 26, 2001

The Honorable Anthony Principi
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW, # 1000
Washington, DC 20420

Dear ~~Mr. Secretary~~ Tony:

Thank you very much for everything the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is doing to heighten public awareness of and participation in the HUBZone program. I was particularly pleased to see VA sending letters to its past vendors to encourage them to determine their possible eligibility.

This initiative, undertaken by the VA Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) under the leadership of its Director, Scott Denniston, is an excellent attempt to expand VA's use of the HUBZone program. Identifying past VA vendors, finding those with ZIP Codes that may indicate HUBZone eligibility, and contacting those firms to encourage them to investigate the benefits of the program, is a sound approach. Enclosed is a copy of a news release my office sent out to announce the VA letters as they were sent to my home state of Missouri.

The HUBZone program has been an important priority of mine ever since I crafted the HUBZone legislation in 1997. I look forward to continued good news from VA as this important outreach effort proceeds.

Sincerely,

Christopher S. Bond
Ranking Member