

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0536

October 5, 2011

The Honorable Karen G. Mills
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
Washington, DC 20024-3212

Dear Administrator Mills,

Last week, I had the opportunity to meet with over 50 small businesses in my district in California. I met with them in a variety of settings, from large roundtables to individual meetings to hear their stories and take their concerns and ideas back to Washington.

Overwhelmingly, I heard that these businesses are ready to grow and hire, but that they feel hindered by the paperwork and red tape involved in applying for an SBA-backed loan. As a member of the Small Business Committee, I am especially concerned that the Small Business Administration expedite loans to enhance access to capital.

I also heard frustration from the smallest of the small business in my district who feel their needs are being ignored by the SBA. These smaller businesses need greater access to loans under \$100,000 and businesses of all sizes expressed to me their desire for more hands-on help from the SBA. Given the state of our economy, we need to be doing everything we can to give businesses the tools they need to grow their payrolls, especially in California where unemployment is among the highest in the nation.

I hope you will consider implementing changes, and I invite you to visit California's 36th Congressional District to hear for yourself what the small business community needs from the Small Business Administration to thrive and grow.

Sincerely yours,



Janice Hahn
Member of Congress

JH/sw