



OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20416

May 5, 2009

Governor Sonny Perdue
203 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Governor Perdue,

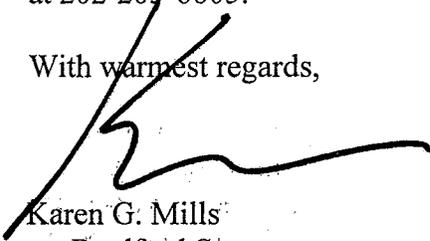
I am writing today to ask your help in ensuring that a significant portion of state contracts supported by Recovery Act funding, go to small businesses. As you well know, small businesses create a majority of American jobs. They represent 99 percent of all employer firms, employ about half of all private sector employees and have generated over 70 percent of the net jobs annually over the last decade. With this in mind, small businesses must be in the forefront of stemming and reversing job losses in our economy.

We encourage you to make every effort to give small businesses the opportunity to compete for and win Recovery Act contracts. To help, we have several new programs. We have increased the contract ceiling in place for the Guaranteed Surety Bond program so that small businesses can compete for contracts up to \$5 million – and in some cases \$10 million. In addition, we have raised the maximum guarantee on 7(a) loans to 90 percent, and reduced or eliminated fees on many SBA loans. These changes, among others, will provide much needed support to small businesses in your state.

Contracting with small businesses brings great value. They deliver innovation and often the personal attention of the owner to the projects. These companies will be the future job creators for your state and across the country.

Please join the SBA in promoting the role of small business in driving our recovery. If you or your staff has any questions regarding how the SBA can assist on this issue, please contact me at 202-205-6605.

With warmest regards,



Karen G. Mills
cc: Bradford Swann