

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 17, 2019

Hon. Chris Pilkerton
Acting SBA Administrator
Small Business Administration
409 3rd St, SW
Washington, D.C. 20416

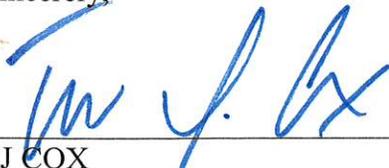
Dear Acting Administrator Pilkerton,

We are writing to seek information about the statutorily authorized, but not yet established, Office of Rural Affairs within the Small Business Administration (SBA). Section 26 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. § 653) established an Office of Rural Affairs within the Small Business Administration. To the best of our understanding, the creation of the Office of Rural Affairs was briefly being initiated in the early 1990s, but was never fully established. For more than twenty-five years, despite clear legislative intent, the SBA has not implemented the law, leaving rural communities without the assistance and advocacy that Congress intended. We therefore request responses to the following questions relating to the Office of Rural Affairs:

1. When did the SBA begin implementing the law initially and when did it subsequently abandon such efforts?
2. What rationale did the SBA have to justify abandoning the establishment of the Office?
3. In which years were funds appropriated for the Office of Rural Affairs? What did the SBA do with those funds?
4. What costs and benefits do you believe might be realized by establishing an Associate Administrator for a successor office to the Office of Rural Affairs?

We appreciate your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us or have your staff contact Nandini Narayan, nandini.narayan@mail.house.gov (Cox); Will Woodworth, Will.Woodworth@mail.house.gov (Golden); Michael Stein, Michael.Stein@mail.house.gov (Small Business Committee) regarding the Office of Rural Affairs.

Sincerely,



TJ COX
Member of Congress



JARED GOLDEN
Member of Congress



ABBY FINKENAUER
Member of Congress



AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN
Member of Congress

Pete Stauber

PETE STAUBER
Member of Congress

Angie Craig

ANGIE CRAIG
Member of Congress

Cheri Bustos

CHERI BUSTOS
Member of Congress

Grace Meng

GRACE MENG
Member of Congress

Chris Pappas

CHRIS PAPPAS
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta

JIMMY PANETTA
Member of Congress

Adriano Espallat

ADRIANO ESPAILLAT
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Henry Cueller

HENRY CUELLER
Member of Congress

John Garamendi

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Member of Congress

Kendra S. Horn

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Member of Congress

Cynthia Axne

CYNTHIA AXNE
Member of Congress

Jim Costa

JIM COSTA
Member of Congress