

The Honorable John F. Kerry
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kerry:

Administrator Mills has asked me to respond to your recent letter supporting Governor Patrick's request that the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) declare Worcester County a disaster area due to damages resulting from the six alarm fire that ravaged the City of Leominster on November 24, 2012. I understand that several commercial and residential properties were damaged.

In response to Governor Patrick's request, Worcester County and the contiguous counties of Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex and Norfolk in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; Tolland and Windham counties in the State of Connecticut; Cheshire and Hillsborough counties in the State of New Hampshire; and Providence County in the State of Rhode Island were declared an SBA disaster area on December 12, 2012. The declaration enables SBA to offer low-interest loans to eligible homeowners, renters, small businesses, and small business agricultural cooperatives without credit available elsewhere. Applications for physical damage may be filed until the close of business on February 11, 2013, and for economic injury until the close of business on September 12, 2013.

We appreciate your continued support of SBA's disaster loan program in Massachusetts. If you and your staff have any questions or comments, please contact the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs at (202) 205-6700. An identical letter has been sent to Senator Brown and all Massachusetts Members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

James E. Rivera
Associate Administrator
for Disaster Assistance

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