

August 8, 2012

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
United States Senator  
201 S. Orange Avenue, Suite 350  
Orlando, Florida 32801

Dear Senator Rubio:

Thank you for your follow-up inquiry on behalf of Ms. Elizabeth Burch, President of Dignitas Technologies, LLC, regarding her appeal of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) denial of her application for entry into the 8(a) Business Development (BD) Program.

Ms. Burch requested that we reconsider the decision to deny her application and provided additional support. On April 5, 2012, after a review of her application and supporting materials, SBA again denied Ms. Burch's application. On May 21, 2012, Ms. Burch appealed SBA's denial to the Office of Hearings and Appeals.

Ms. Burch's appeal was assigned to Administrative Law Judge Gunning in the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Administrative Law Judges, in accordance with a memorandum of understanding currently in place between SBA and EPA. Please be assured that Judge Gunning will give the appeal a thorough and impartial review, in accordance with the regulations governing 8(a) BD appeals. Because this matter is pending litigation, it would be inappropriate for me to comment further.

We appreciate your continued support of the SBA and the Florida small business community. If you and your staff have additional questions, please contact the SBA Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs at (202) 205-6700.

Sincerely,

Delorice P. Ford  
Assistant Administrator  
for Hearings and Appeals