

July 23, 2013

The Honorable Patrick J. Toomey  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Toomey:

Administrator Mills has asked me to respond to your recent correspondence regarding Empire State Development Corporation's (ESDC) request for Multi-State expansion authority into Pennsylvania. Thank you for your interest in this matter. Prior to receipt of our letter, the 504 Program Branch had been in direct communication with the Pennsylvania Certified Development Companies (CDCs) and the SBA Philadelphia and Pittsburgh District Offices via conference call to address concerns of all parties.

On July 9, 2013, the 504 Program Office and the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh District Offices held a conference call with the Pennsylvania CDCs to address their concerns as well as to discuss the processes and procedures involved in our decision to approve ESDC's Multi-State request. ESDC has fulfilled the regulatory requirements for a Multi-State expansion, and we feel this decision will benefit small businesses in the state with additional access to the 504 Loan Program. It is our goal to provide Pennsylvania small businesses with greater access to capital.

On July 10, 2013, the SBA Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs coordinated with your staff and provided an overview of the inquiry from Pennsylvania CDCs, the basis of the SBA decision, and briefed them on the July 9, 2013, conference call.

We appreciate your continued support of the SBA 504 Loan Program and the Pennsylvania small business community. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Nicholas Coutsos, SBA Assistant Administrator for Congressional and Legislative Affairs at (202) 205-6700.

Sincerely,

Michael Simmons  
Acting Director  
Office of Financial Assistance