



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

August 16, 2012

The Honorable Al Franken
United States Senator
60 Plato Boulevard East, Suite 220
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107

Dear Senator Franken:

Thank you for your follow-up letter on behalf of Mr. Patrick Kelly regarding his difficulty with obtaining U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) financial assistance for his business.

The SBA works with 7(a) participant lenders and certified development companies (CDC) across the nation to support small businesses and economic development. SBA sets the guidelines for the loans we guarantee, which are actually made by our lender partners. The Agency reduces some of the risk to these lenders by providing a partial guarantee that these loans will be repaid. When a business applies for an SBA loan, it applies to a lender partner for a commercial loan, who then requests an SBA guaranty. The Agency has no record of a request for guaranty for a loan to Mr. Kelly or his businesses from either a 7(a) lender or CDC. On receipt, a request will be given every consideration.

As a way to further assist, we have asked the SBA Minnesota District Office to meet with Mr. Kelly to discuss his financing proposal to see which Agency financial assistance program best fits the financing needs of his business. Mr. Kelly may contact Melvin Boser of the SBA Minnesota office at (612) 370-2335.

We appreciate your support of the SBA and the Minnesota small business community. If you or your staff has any questions, please contact the SBA Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs at (202) 205-6700.

Sincerely,

Grady B. Hedgespeth
Director
Office of Financial Assistance