

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 16, 2023

The Honorable Isabella Casillas Guzman
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Administrator Guzman:

We write today to respectfully request the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) pause the proposed changes to the lending programs until a full-time Associate Administrator overseeing the agency's lending programs is installed. The unexpected departure on Friday of the Associate Administrator for the Office of Capital Access, Patrick Kelley, leaves a void in leadership at a time when such leadership will be key in overseeing the orderly implementation of the new lending rules.

Over the last few weeks, the former Associate Administrator testified before both House and Senate Committees, where legitimate bipartisan concerns were expressed regarding the effects that these new rules could have on the integrity of SBA's loan programs. Furthermore, some guidance on how lenders implement these rule changes have only just come out and the full guidance is still not available. Without a permanent Associate Administrator leading the Office of Capital Access, it makes it more challenging for stakeholders to get timely responses to implementation inquiries and for Congress to conduct necessary oversight of these significant programmatic changes.

As small businesses and lenders begin to work through these new requirements, it is key to have this position filled with a qualified candidate equipped to handle any issues as they inevitably arise. As a result, we believe that it is best for a new permanent Associate Administrator for the Office of Capital Access to be in place prior to these changes going into effect.

Sincerely,



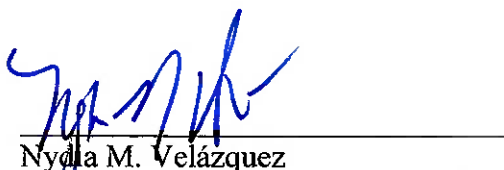
Benjamin L. Cardin
Chairman
Senate Committee on Small Business
and Entrepreneurship



Joni K. Ernst
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Small Business
and Entrepreneurship



Roger Williams
Chairman
House Committee on Small Business



Nydia M. Velázquez
Ranking Member
House Committee on Small Business