

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 18, 2000

Warm greetings to everyone gathered in our nation's capital to celebrate Small Business Week, 2000.

As America's small business entrepreneurs, you are the cornerstone of our free enterprise system. You generate more than half of our gross domestic product and employ 52 percent of the private sector work force. You create the majority of new jobs in our country -- 20 million just since 1993 -- and you represent 96 percent of all U.S. companies in export trade.

My Administration is committed to helping our nation's 25 million small businesses to grow and prosper, and I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish in the last seven years. Working in partnership with the SBA, we have backed more than \$70 billion in small business loans -- more than the previous 25 years combined. We have tripled the number of loans to minorities and women since 1993. And we have set aside billions of dollars in federal contracts for small businesses and backed more than half of all the venture capital investments in small business.

As we look ahead to the challenges of the new century, Small Business Week offers us the opportunity to thank you for your outstanding contributions to the life of our nation. Your hard work and perseverance are an inspiration to all Americans, and on behalf of your fellow citizens, I thank you for helping to build a stronger, more prosperous nation for us all.

Best wishes for a wonderful week.

Bill Clinton



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

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

May 22, 2000

Dear National Small Business Week 2000 attendees:

Welcome to Washington and National Small Business Week 2000. This is that special time of the year when we can stop for a moment to recognize your achievements. I look forward to meeting each of the National Small Business Winners over the next few days. My special thanks to our many SBA partners, corporate sponsors and our hardworking SBA staff.

This is an exciting time for America's small businesses. Our nation is enjoying the longest period of economic growth in our history. It's no secret that small businesses are helping to drive this economy. We are entering a new century with the energy, strength and innovation necessary to continue this economic growth and prosperity.

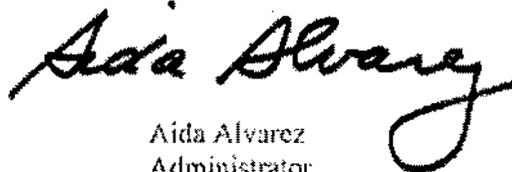
I am especially proud of this Administration's accomplishments to help provide you with the capital, technical assistance and opportunities you need to succeed in today's marketplace. We have provided historic levels of assistance to small businesses; expanded access to capital, federal procurement and international markets; and introduced tax and regulatory relief. President Clinton and Vice President Gore are good friends to small business owners.

Last year, SBA guaranteed more than \$12 billion in loans to more than 50,000 businesses. We helped open the door to more than 3,000 capital investments totaling \$4.2 billion. We provided technical assistance to more than 900,000 small businesses. In time of disaster, we provided more than 36,000 loans to help businesses rebuild and to keep people working.

The SBA is *your* voice for small business. We increased the government-wide goal of federal procurement from small businesses. We doubled the funding for Women's Business Centers. We're reaching out to share the economic prosperity with our inner cities, rural areas and Native American reservations through the HubZone program and the President's New Markets Initiatives. We are customer driven and we are committed to providing America's small businesses with the best service possible.

Again, welcome to National Small Business Week 2000.

Sincerely,



Aida Alvarez
Administrator



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INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

INTERNATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

APPENDIX 11G



MAY
23-25
2000

A HISTORY OF SUCCESS, A MILLENNIUM OF OPPORTUNITY

SBA

U.S. Small Business Administration