

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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January 28, 2009

Mr. Alfred E. Judd, Director
United States Small Business Administration
Field Operations West
Post Office Box 419004
Sacramento, California 95841-9004

Dear Mr. Judd:

Under the provisions of 13 CFR, Part 123.3, I respectfully request that the Administrator of the United States Small Business Administration (SBA) declare an economic injury disaster for Washington State caused by a series of snow storms that began on December 12, 2008.

On or about December 12, 2008 communities throughout Washington State began to feel the affects of an Arctic cold air mass that moved across the state. This arctic air brought a series of snow storms that made many of the state's roadways, especially county/city roadways and residential side streets nearly impassable. In western Washington, the snow began to melt in the lowlands after the holidays. In eastern Washington, the snow continued to accumulate and there was no relief until early January. During the peak of the holiday shopping season, the public had a difficult time getting to businesses throughout the state. In some cases, employees were unable to get to work and businesses were forced to close their doors for lack of staff. All of the above resulted in substantial economic loss to the small business community statewide.

I certify that at least five small business concerns have suffered substantial economic injury as a result of this event, and are in need of financial assistance not otherwise available on reasonable terms. Economic injury data worksheets received by the Washington State Military Department's, Emergency Management Division have already been sent to and reviewed by SBA staff.

I have designated Kurt Hardin of the Washington State Military Department's Emergency Management Division, as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. He will work with the SBA and may provide additional information, justification, or requests on my behalf.

Mr. Alfred E. Judd, Director
January 28, 2009
Page 2

If you have any questions about this request, please call James Mullen, Director of the Emergency Management Division, at (253) 512-7001. Thank you for your careful and expeditious consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Christine O. Gregoire
Governor

cc: Washington State Congressional Delegation
State Legislators of Affected Counties
Washington State Office of Financial Management
All County Emergency Management Directors