

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 21, 2014

The Honorable Jay Nixon  
Governor of Missouri  
P.O. Box 720  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Governor Nixon:

Days of civil unrest in Ferguson, Missouri have taken a toll on the entire region. As a result, some Ferguson businesses suffered significant physical damage, while other businesses suffered major economic losses. Through no fault of their own, individuals are now struggling to rebuild their business and revitalize their community. Many of these businesses are locally-owned, and all employ residents of the greater St. Louis County region. It will take time and resources to help them recover from recent events.

We should help these businesses by ensuring that they have every access to all information and available resources to recover from this crisis. Disaster loans provided by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) are an appropriate remedy when businesses suffer substantial economic harm. The SBA may announce a disaster declaration in reliance on a state certification of losses to area businesses. The SBA will make an Economic Injury Declaration when at least five small businesses in a disaster area have suffered substantial economic harm as a result of the disaster and are in need of financial assistance. The SBA will make a Physical Injury Declaration when at least 25 small businesses suffer substantial uninsured losses to their property. A request for both of these declarations may be appropriate for businesses in Ferguson.

With the help of an SBA disaster declaration, impacted businesses could access low interest loans to repair the damage to their property and help them reclaim their economic well-being. SBA has a proven track record of assisting communities impacted by disasters and of reaching out to those who may benefit from this federal program.

The businesses in Ferguson are only just beginning to calculate their losses. We encourage you to investigate whether an SBA disaster declaration could benefit Ferguson area residents and business owners. We are ready to assist with whatever may be required.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill  
United States Senator



Roy Blunt  
United States Senator