

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2503

August 1, 2001

Governor Bob Holden
Missouri Governor's Office
Missouri Capitol Building, Room 216
PO Box 720
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0720

Dear Governor Holden:

Recently I learned that you vetoed funding for the Missouri Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) this year. As Ranking Member on the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I have been deeply involved with the SBDC program for years. The program delivers much-needed counseling, training and technical assistance to current and prospective small businessmen and women. Each year, the Missouri SBDCs provide business development services to almost 7,000 Missouri small businessmen and women seeking assistance.

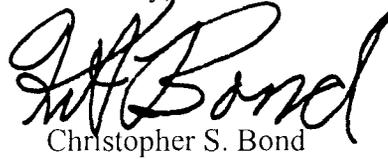
The Missouri legislature had originally appropriated \$549,000 for the SBDCs, which the Federal government matches dollar for dollar. The SBDCs will not receive these Federal matching funds unless they are able to raise the vetoed funds from private sources. It is my understanding that the Missouri SBDCs may be able to raise enough private funds this year to receive a portion of the federal matching funds they normally receive. This outpouring of support from the private sector will demonstrate the important contribution the SBDCs provide to the economic health of our state.

While the private sector may donate enough funds this year to permit the SBDCs to receive some Federal funding, it is unlikely that it can be relied upon as a consistent funding source for years to come. Consequently, without your support of SBDC funding in the future, the Missouri SBDCs will be ineligible for sufficient Federal funding and Missouri small businesses will not receive the essential services these centers provide. Given the important work the SBDCs provide to Missouri small businesses, I hope that you will support funding for the SBDCs in the coming years.

Governor Bob Holden
Page 2

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please feel free to contact me to discuss this matter in further detail, or have your staff contact David Bohley (202-224-) on my Committee staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Bond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" and last name "Bond" clearly distinguishable.

Christopher S. Bond