

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

March 25, 2025

The Honorable Madiha D. Latif
Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for Minority Business Development
United States Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Deputy Under Secretary Latif:

I write regarding the Executive Order issued on March 14, 2025, which seeks to dismantle the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA). This action by the Trump Administration undermines the work of the only federal agency exclusively dedicated to supporting the development and expansion of minority-owned businesses, which contribute trillions to the U.S. economy, employ millions of workers, and support local economies.

Congress affirmed its bipartisan support for MBDA by expanding its reach and making it permanent in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Our bipartisan amendment made the MBDA more effective by putting into statute the mission and goals of the agency and giving it the proper tools to carry them out successfully. It also created a presidentially appointed and Senate-confirmed Under Secretary of Commerce for Minority Business Development to lead the agency. This allowed MBDA to increase their programs and outreach to minority-owned businesses and allowed for the expansion of MBDA business centers into additional states—including Wisconsin.

The Executive Order ignores Congress's bipartisan commitment to MBDA's reliability and geographic reach and would instead eliminate MBDA's "non-statutory components and functions...to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law." Any plans by this Administration to restructure MBDA should include input from Members of Congress who are familiar with its impact. The Executive Order required a report from MBDA to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget explaining which of its components or functions are statutorily required and to what extent. It is critical to include the Senators who represent states with MBDA Business Centers in this evaluation process, and the first step is providing me with a copy of the report to my Senate office to evaluate the scope of these proposed cuts. As Ranking Member of the Senate Commerce subcommittee charged with oversight of MBDA, I am requesting a copy of that report, which you would have already submitted to OMB, by April 2, 2025.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tammy Baldwin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "T".

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator