



December 19, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senate Majority Leader Schumer, Senate Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson, and House Minority Leader Jeffries:

As a representative of America's 34 million small businesses and on behalf of Small Business Majority, we write to urge Congress to act swiftly to avoid a government shutdown and provide disaster relief to the thousands of small businesses struggling to survive as they recover from the impacts of Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

Millions of small businesses nationwide rely on federal agencies, most notably the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), to keep their business up and running through loans, contracts, technical assistance and more. If Congress is unable to broker a deal on a continuing resolution (CR) during the holiday season, a time in which many small businesses rely on for the bulk of their annual sales, federal agencies like the SBA will be forced to close and will therefore be unable to process loan applications or service existing loans. While Congress routinely pushes the envelope on securing funding during the annual appropriations process on time, this situation is becoming increasingly more dire as thousands of business owners are forced to stand by while key disaster programs remain unfunded. More than [20,000 approved SBA disaster loan applicants](#), awaiting nearly \$1.5 billion in disaster relief, are counting on Congress to act now. As a backlog of unreleased funds grows, small business owners are the ones feeling the pain of this predictable situation.

Most importantly, small business owners look to the government for certainty and stability, increasingly so amid their efforts to plan for sweeping economic policy changes in the next few years. Therefore, we urge Congress to quickly act in the best interest of all Americans by working in good faith to avoid an unnecessary and politically motivated shutdown ahead of their busy holiday season.

Should you have any questions or if you'd like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Arensmeyer".

John Arensmeyer  
Founder & CEO  
Small Business Majority