

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2504

March 10, 2025

The Honorable Kelly Loeffler
Administrator
United States Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20416

Administrator Loeffler:

Thank you for your leadership in directing the Small Business Administration (SBA) to focus back on their primary mission, helping Main Street. For the past four years, the SBA has not left their headquarters in Washington DC and other largely liberal cities across this country. The SBA has not been engaging on the ground with the very small businesses they purport to help. Furthermore, the Biden SBA did not prioritize helping Americans and dropped their verification standards on ensuring only Americans received SBA loans. Thankfully, under your leadership, all of this will change very soon.

I am writing to express my strong support for your commitment to relocating SBA Regional Offices out of sanctuary cities and into the heart of America. I urge you to strongly consider Columbia, Missouri, as a potential location. Columbia is home to the University of Missouri, also known as Mizzou, the largest University in the State with over 30,000 students. Along with Stephens College and Columbia College, the city's student population exceeds 40,000, fostering an environment rich in entrepreneurship and innovation.

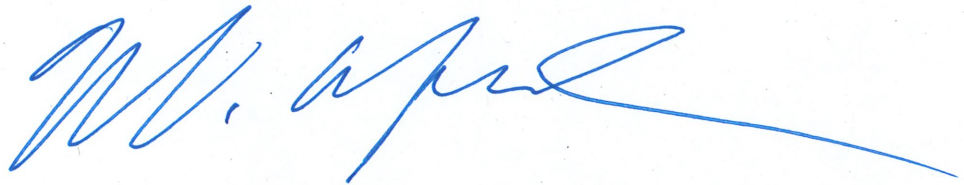
Additionally, Columbia is home to Missouri's Small Business Development Center (SBDC), which serves thousands of entrepreneurs annually. SBDCs are among the SBA's most effective programs at helping small businesses, and moving the SBA's Regional Office to Columbia would allow even greater cooperation between Missouri SBDC and the SBA.

Beyond its metropolitan area of over 200,000 residents, Columbia is surrounded by rural communities where small businesses are the backbone of the local economy. Placing the SBA in the heart of Missouri would ensure it remains committed to Main Street businesses and rural entrepreneurs who need its support the most.

While Kansas City is not officially a sanctuary city, its leadership has embraced policies that align with sanctuary city values, including offering to house migrants from cities overwhelmed by illegal immigration. In response, Missouri lawmakers have taken action to ensure the state's policies prioritize the interests of its citizens. As the SBA undergoes this critical relocation effort, it may be time for the administration to reinforce these priorities by placing its Regional Office in Columbia rather than a city that leans toward leftist policies.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your dedication to strengthening small businesses and ensuring that federal resources reach the communities that need them most.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Alford', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Alford

Member of Congress