The Honorable Kelly Loeffler
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd St SW
Washington, DC 20416

Western Massachusetts Economic Development Council
C/O President Aaron Vega
1441 Main Street
Springfield, MA 01103

July 7, 2026

Dear Administrator Loeffler,

We write as members of the Western Massachusetts business community to express our staunch support for the reopening of the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Springfield, Massachusetts branch office.

Prior to its closure by the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and SBA on June 1, 2025, the Springfield branch office was a vital contributor to the small business ecosystem of Western Massachusetts. The presence of a physical SBA branch office in Springfield allowed small businesses and entrepreneurs throughout Western Massachusetts to better connect with the SBA's services, products, and the broader entrepreneurial network.

The absence of an SBA office in Springfield has substantially affected the Western Massachusetts business community. We deeply respect the work of staff in the Massachusetts District Office in Boston, but without a permanent physical presence by locally focused and knowledgeable SBA representatives in Springfield, key economic differences between the regions' business environments create a clear disadvantage for Western Massachusetts. There is no substitute for having regionally knowledgeable and available staff on the ground and in the community to serve the needs of small businesses. In addition, this deficit creates added work and obligations for Boston-based staff in the District Office and makes their jobs more difficult.

As promised in your June 3, 2025, letter to Senator Markey, Senator Warren, Representative Neal, and Representative McGovern, we urge you to move forward with reopening the SBA branch office in Springfield and act swiftly to restore the services needed by the small businesses and entrepreneurs of Western Massachusetts.

Sincerely,

Aaron Vega
President & CEO
Western Massachusetts Economic Development Council

Diana M. Szynal
President & CEO
Springfield Regional Chamber

Andrew Melendez
Founder & CEO
Legacy Economic Development Corporation

Jonathan Butler
President & CEO
1Berkshire

Jessye Deane
Executive Director
Franklin County Chamber of Commerce & Regional Tourism Council

Amanda Waterfield
Executive Director
Greater Westfield Chamber of Commerce

Raymond Lanza-Weil
President
Common Capital, Inc.

Jon Kostek
Executive Director
Greater Easthampton Chamber of Commerce

Melissa Breor
Executive Director
Greater Chicopee Chamber of Commerce

William E. Cole
President/Founder
Living Local 413