April 15, 2020

The Honorable Wilbur Ross  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20230-0001  

Dear Secretary Ross:

As you know, the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) has a unique mission that focuses on an often-overlooked subset of the population. As such, it plays an important role in promoting minority-owned businesses across the United States. That is why we were glad to support the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (Public Law 116-136), which included a $10 million appropriation for the MBDA.

Unfortunately, however, there is a lack of sufficient information regarding how the MBDA will use this money. Coupled with the unprecedented time we find ourselves in, it is important, now more than ever, that Members of Congress have the latest information and an understanding of how the agencies of the United States Government are functioning and what more can be done to support their missions.

Given that Congress has appropriated this money, we think it is important that we, as a body, have the information needed to ensure that it is being used consistent with Congressional intent. Therefore, we would like to request a briefing by Director Henry Childs II, or the appropriate senior staffer at MBDA, regarding how the Agency will use the $10 million as well as the projected timeline for accessing these funds.

Thank you for the consideration of this request. Should you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress
Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

Michael F. Doyle  
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

Wm. Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress

Al Green  
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress

Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Henry C. “Hank” Johnson Jr.  
Member of Congress

Karen Bass  
Member of Congress

Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress
cc:
Mr. Henry Childs II
   Director, Minority Business Development Agency