

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 21, 2021

The Honorable Isabella Casillas Guzman
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street, SW
Washington, D.C., 20024

Dear Administrator Guzman:

On Wednesday, October 6, 2021, Mark Madrid, the Associate Administrator of the Office of Entrepreneurial Development at the Small Business Administration (SBA) testified before the House Small Business Committee. We are deeply concerned that Mr. Madrid was unprepared to answer even our simplest questions about the effects that raising taxes would have on small businesses, entrepreneurs, and startups across the country. Whether it was a basic question on how tax increases affect hiring more employees or if increased taxes would keep businesses competitive, Mr. Madrid refused to answer any and all our questions relating to this topic. This is not acceptable.

This unwillingness to engage with our committee members about rudimentary tax policy is extremely troubling because it makes us believe that your agency is out of touch with the top issues facing Main Street American businesses. The most asked question we receive from business leaders focuses on this Administration's plans to raise taxes and what it will mean for their businesses. These are not isolated incidents either; the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) conducted a survey that showed that tax increases continue to be one of the largest burdens for the majority of small business owners across the country.¹

We cannot let this inability to answer simple questions regarding significant policy proposals from the Biden Administration become the norm from top SBA officials as job creators in our communities continue to sound the alarm. It is the responsibility of the SBA to aid and assist small businesses and entrepreneurs. In order to properly accomplish that mission, we expect high-ranking officials in your administration to fully understand the needs and concerns of businesses and to put their interests first.

As our committee continues to fulfill our Congressionally mandated oversight role over the SBA, we urge every witness from your administration who comes before our committee to be prepared to answer our questions on proposed policies and their impacts on American businesses. Blatantly ignoring a Member of Congress' question is not a satisfactory practice during a Congressional hearing. We expect more and American small businesses deserve more.

¹ NFIB, 2021 TAX SURVEY (Aug. 9, 2021), available at <https://assets.nfib.com/nfibcom/NFIB-Tax-Survey-Full-Report.pdf>.

Sincerely,



Roger Williams (TX-25)
Vice Ranking Member
Committee on Small Business



Blaine Luetkemeyer (MO-3)
Ranking Member
Committee on Small Business



Dan Meuser (PA-9)
Member of Congress



Andrew R. Garbarino (NY-2)
Member of Congress



Maria Salazar (FL-27)
Member of Congress



Jim Hagedorn (MN-1)
Member of Congress



Scott Fitzgerald (WI-5)
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber (MN-8)
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney (NY-22)
Member of Congress



Young Kim (CA-39)
Member of Congress



Beth Van Duyne (TX-24)
Member of Congress



Byron Donalds (FL-19)
Member of Congress