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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 29, 2012

Ms. Karen Mills  
Administrator  
U.S. Small Business Administration  
409 Third Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Administrator Mills:

I am writing to you regarding the ongoing National Hockey League (NHL) lockout and its impact on small businesses in Columbus, Ohio. The two months lost of the 2012-2013 season have not only disappointed hockey fans, but have also delivered an economic blow to local businesses.

The Columbus Blue Jackets bring together individuals from Ohio, the United States, and Canada to cheer for their favorite hockey teams at the Nationwide Arena. Small businesses in Columbus count on NHL fans to support their stores and restaurants each winter. The cancelled games have already caused financial stress on retailers – from stores that sell team merchandise to restaurants that serve fans before and after games – and the uncertainty of the rest of the season looms large for these businesses.

Furthermore, the NHL has cancelled the 2013 All-Star Game, which was set to take place in Columbus this coming January. The Greater Columbus Sports Commission estimates that the cancelled event will cost the city \$12 million in lost revenue, which would have been spent on lodging, restaurants, shopping, transportation, and attractions in the region.

I ask that you work closely with the businesses impacted by the NHL lockout and provide them with the necessary resources and support during this difficult time. I appreciate your attention to this issue and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator