

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 22, 2022

The Honorable Isabella Casillas Guzman
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Administrator Guzman:

We write to encourage the creation of a new Small Business Administration (SBA) online resource hub for small business startup owners and entrepreneurs to obtain information about state and federal permitting and licensing requirements for small businesses. We have heard from many small business owners in our communities that accessing the information on the vast array of business permitting and licensing rules is difficult, especially for those launching businesses for the first time. SBA has made important strides in providing online resources through its Learning Center, but we believe more can be done to help entrepreneurs, particularly those running startups, get the information they need to start, build, and expand their businesses and cut through bureaucratic red tape.

Although SBA's Learning Center provides online courses and programs to assist entrepreneurs in their planning, managing, and expansion process, there is very little information on the federal, state, and local permits that are required to operate a business. Navigating these requirements as a prospective entrepreneur can be challenging and time-consuming. We understand that at one point, SBA offered or planned to offer a centralized online tool for permitting and licensing guidance called the "Permit Me" tool, but no such resource for entrepreneurs exists today on the SBA website. To assist with that effort, we would like to explore Congressional authorization for the creation of a centralized SBA portal to serve as a one-stop shop where small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs can find all applicable information on federal, state, and local permitting and licensing for starting and operating a small business.

We, therefore, ask SBA to respond to the following questions:

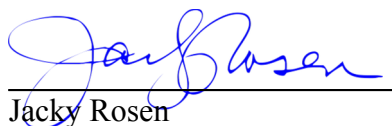
1. Did SBA ever launch, even in beta testing, a "Permit Me" tool for permitting and licensing guidance? If so, why does this tool no longer exist? If not, what were the primary barriers to launch?
2. How would a centralized permitting and licensing portal on SBA's website help small business owners and entrepreneurs gain access to the permitting and licensing information needed for their businesses? Where are most small business owners and

entrepreneurs who run or are looking to launch small businesses currently finding such information on local, state, and federal requirements?

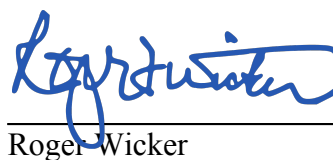
3. If the "Permit Me" tool is created, how would SBA incorporate data on state and local permitting and licensing requirements into the tool? How did SBA initially plan to do so?
4. What does SBA estimate would be the initial cost to create such a tool and the annual cost to operate and maintain it? Are there ways SBA can cover such costs with existing discretionary funding?

We look forward to receiving your answers and working with you to alleviate burdensome processes for small business owners and ensure their success.

Sincerely,



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Roger Wicker
United States Senator