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OFFICE OF
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ARMED SERVICES
CIVILIAN AFFAIRS
GENERAL BUSINESS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 9, 2012

Dear Mr. Bob Baker,

I would like to invite you to participate in a roundtable discussion, "Access to Capital for Small Business," on February 27, 2012 at 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM at Boston City Council Chambers.

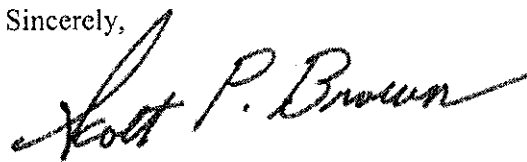
Since I arrived in the U.S. Senate, I have been busy traveling across Massachusetts talking with small businesses and meeting with business leaders as a member of the Senate Small Business Committee. The Commonwealth has tremendous potential for growth—we are an incubator for high-tech and biotech startups and we are home to some of the world's greatest universities. And yet too many small businesses and entrepreneurs have difficulty finding access to the growth capital that can help boost job creation in our state.

For many small businesses, access to capital is the key that can make the difference between taking risks and sitting on the sidelines. Not only do I look forward to having a thoughtful discussion with the panel participants, but I also hope that the audience—who will range from small business owners and entrepreneurs to community bank lenders and venture capitalists—will be able to use this as an opportunity to learn, connect, and gain new perspectives.

There will be approximately ten speakers, including you, and the roundtable will be comprised of two panels—the first a look at the state of traditional lending channels for small businesses, and the second a discussion of start-up investing and new innovations. I hope you will join us on the panel on lending. Massachusetts has seen increases in small business lending, but many small businesses still wonder where to turn when they need capital. Areas like Kendall Square are among the densest clusters of innovation and new ventures in America. Yet, this past October, New York passed Massachusetts in the number of U.S. venture-capital deals for the first time in over a decade. This roundtable is an opportunity for all of us to focus on how Massachusetts can continue to improve in both financial services and innovation.

I look forward to hearing from you and I hope to see you on February 27th. Please respond as soon as possible to Kristen Granchelli either by email (Kristen_Granchelli@scottbrown.senate.gov) or phone (202-224-5873).

Sincerely,



Scott P. Brown
U.S. Senator