



AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO

Eric Bunn Sr.
National Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Everett B. Kelley
National President

Dr. Kendrick B. Roberson
NVP for Women & Fair Practices

October 20, 2026

The Honorable Roger Williams
Chairman
House Small Business Committee
2361 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joni Ernst
Chair
Senate Small Business Committee
428A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nydia Velazquez
Ranking Member
House Small Business Committee
2361 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Edward Markey
Ranking Member
Senate Small Business Committee
428A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairs Williams and Ernst and Ranking Members Velazquez and Markey and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), representing employees of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), we strongly oppose the Agency's planned field office relocations and urge Congress to conduct oversight before these moves proceed.

The proposed relocations include moving the Boston office to Southborough, Massachusetts; the Washington, D.C., office to Herndon, Virginia; the Atlanta office to Marietta, Georgia; and the Denver office to Englewood, Colorado. The agency also is reportedly considering relocating offices currently in New York City, Chicago, Seattle, Minneapolis, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

Losing employees with years or decades of service would jeopardize the SBA's institutional knowledge, technical expertise, and relationships with lenders and local small-business communities. Replacing these employees requires substantial investment in recruitment, hiring, onboarding, and training, while new hires cannot immediately replicate their experience. The resulting turnover could disrupt operations, reduce productivity, increase costs to taxpayers, and undermine the timely, effective delivery of services.

AFGE is also concerned that the SBA has not demonstrated, based on information provided to employees to date, that it has conducted a comprehensive analysis of how these relocations will affect public access to its services. Moving offices farther from the communities they serve, particularly to locations poorly served by public transportation, could create additional barriers for small-business owners and entrepreneurs who rely on in-person assistance.

The SBA's mission is to support America's small businesses. Relocation decisions that risk losing experienced employees and reducing public access must be supported by clear evidence that they will improve, rather than undermine, the Agency's ability to fulfill that mission.



Accordingly, AFGE urges Congress to pause the proposed relocations until the SBA completes and publicly releases a comprehensive impact assessment for congressional review; evaluate workforce impacts, including employee retention, vacancies, recruitment, commuting burdens, and the loss of institutional knowledge; require meaningful consultation with AFGE and affected employees and consider less disruptive alternatives; and scrutinize all contemplated relocations. Congress has a responsibility to ensure that federal agencies use taxpayer resources effectively and maintain the capacity to fulfill their statutory missions. The SBA should not proceed with these relocations without demonstrating that their anticipated benefits outweigh the potential costs to employees, taxpayers, and the small business communities the Agency serves. AFGE urges you to seek answers from SBA leadership regarding the rationale for these moves, the analyses supporting them, and the measures in place to protect employee retention and public access to services.

Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to the federal workforce and America's small-business community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Gustafsson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Niklas Gustafsson
President
SBA Local 228