

through injection wells, sub-surface infiltration galleries and land applications in areas that are currently wetland restoration project areas.

The cost for these facilities is estimated to be \$38 million. Under title XVI, the Federal portion of the cost of constructing facilities cannot exceed 25 percent, with a maximum of \$20 million.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to thank the chairmen of the subcommittee and the full committee for bringing this issue through the committee and to the floor. It is an issue that is very, very important to my district.

The Lakehaven Utility District is one of the largest utility districts that I represent and have some critical wastewater needs, as was mentioned. The projects that they have put forward are very innovative and show a great deal of promise in developing new technology to help us deal with wastewater, both in terms of recycling it and properly disposing of it.

Some of the problems that we have in this country that do not get as much attention or are not as well noticed are some of the critical infrastructure problems. When most people think of infrastructure, they think of transportation, they think of airports, maybe they think of education; but wastewater treatment is one of the more critical infrastructure issues that our country faces, and we are facing a critical backlog of projects that need help and support.

This bill would give us the authorizing language that we need in order to move forward in this project. We are fully aware of the fact we also have to get in line with the other 25 projects to try to get it appropriated, but this is the first necessary step in that process.

I really want to compliment the Lakehaven Utility District and their commissioners, who have worked so hard on this project. I think they have been very forward-thinking, and the project they have put forward looked at new technologies and new ways to deal with wastewater in ways that hopefully will help become a model for the country and move forward.

They are fully prepared to fund, obviously, a portion of this project and just need a little Federal help to make it happen.

Again, I want to thank the chairman, I want to thank all the people on the committee, for allowing this to come forward, and, again, the folks in Lakehaven for doing the work.

Lastly, I am going to take a personal moment. It is my wife's birthday today; and, unfortunately, she is back home in my district. So this is my only

opportunity to say happy birthday to her in any sort of visual format. So, happy birthday.

Again, I thank the chairman for bringing this bill up, and urge passage.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2115.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the three bills just considered, H.R. 3322, H.R. 2238, and H.R. 2115.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

NATIVE AMERICAN SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ACT

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2538) to amend the Small Business Act to expand and approve the assistance provided by Small Business Development Centers to Indian tribe members, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2538

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Native American Small Business Development Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Approximately 60 percent of Indian tribe members and Alaska Natives live on or adjacent to Indian lands, which suffer from an average unemployment rate of 45 percent.

(2) Indian tribe members and Alaska Natives own more than 197,000 businesses and generate more than \$34,000,000,000 in revenues. The service industry accounted for 17 percent of these businesses (of which 40 percent were engaged in business and personal services) and 15.1 percent of their total receipts. The next largest was the construction industry (13.9 percent and 15.7 percent, respectively). The third largest was the retail trade industry (7.5 percent and 13.4 percent, respectively).

(3) The number of businesses owned by Indian tribe members and Alaska Natives grew by 84 percent from 1992 to 1997, and their

gross receipts grew by 179 percent in that period. This is compared to all businesses which grew by 7 percent, and their total gross receipts grew by 40 percent, in that period.

(4) The Small Business Development Center program is cost effective. Clients receiving long-term counseling under the program in 1998 generated additional tax revenues of \$468,000,000, roughly 6 times the cost of the program to the Federal Government.

(5) Using the existing infrastructure of the Small Business Development Center program, small businesses owned by Indian tribe members, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians receiving services under the program will have a higher survival rate than the average small business not receiving such services.

(6) Business counseling and technical assistance is critical on Indian lands where similar services are scarce and expensive.

(7) Increased assistance through counseling under the Small Business Development Center program has been shown to reduce the default rate associated with lending programs of the Small Business Administration.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are as follows:

(1) To stimulate economies on Indian lands.

(2) To foster economic development on Indian lands.

(3) To assist in the creation of new small businesses owned by Indian tribe members, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians and expand existing ones.

(4) To provide management, technical, and research assistance to small businesses owned by Indian tribe members, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians.

(5) To seek the advice of the governing bodies of Indian tribes, corporations organized pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and other Alaska Native entities, and Native Hawaiian organizations on where small business development assistance is most needed.

(6) To ensure that Indian tribe members, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians have full access to existing business counseling and technical assistance available through the Small Business Development Center program.

SEC. 3. SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER ASSISTANCE TO INDIAN TRIBE MEMBERS, ALASKA NATIVES, AND NATIVE HAWAIIANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 21(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(7) ADDITIONAL GRANT TO ASSIST INDIAN TRIBE MEMBERS, ALASKA NATIVES, AND NATIVE HAWAIIANS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Any applicant in an eligible State that is funded by the Administration as a Small Business Development Center may apply for an additional grant to be used solely to provide services described in subsection (c)(3) to assist with outreach, development, and enhancement of small business startups and expansions that are owned by Indian tribe members, Alaska Natives, or Native Hawaiians and that are located in Alaska or Hawaii, or on Indian lands in the 48 contiguous States.

"(B) ELIGIBLE STATES.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), an eligible State is a State that has a combined population of Indian tribe members, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians that comprises at least 1 percent of the State's total population, as shown by the latest available census.

“(C) GRANT APPLICATIONS.—An applicant for a grant under subparagraph (A) shall submit to the Associate Administrator an application that is in such form as the Associate Administrator may require. The application shall include information regarding the applicant's goals and objectives for the services to be provided using the grant, including—

“(i) the capability of the applicant to provide training and services to a representative number of Indian tribe members, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians;

“(ii) the location of the Small Business Development Center site proposed by the applicant;

“(iii) the required amount of grant funding needed by the applicant to implement the program; and

“(iv) the extent to which the applicant has consulted with the governing bodies of Indian tribes, corporations organized pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and other Alaska Native entities, and Native Hawaiian organizations, as appropriate.

“(D) APPLICABILITY OF GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—An applicant for a grant under subparagraph (A) shall comply with all of the requirements of this section, except that the matching funds requirements of paragraph (4)(A) shall not apply.

“(E) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—No applicant may receive more than \$300,000 in grants under this paragraph in a fiscal year.

“(F) REGULATIONS.—After providing notice and an opportunity for comment and after consulting with the Association recognized by the Administration pursuant to paragraph (3)(A) (but not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph), the Administrator shall issue final regulations to carry out this paragraph, including regulations that establish—

“(i) standards relating to educational, technical, and support services to be provided by Small Business Development Centers receiving assistance under this paragraph; and

“(ii) standards relating to any work plan that the Associate Administrator may require a Small Business Development Center receiving assistance under this paragraph to develop.

“(G) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph, the following definitions apply:

“(i) **ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term ‘Associate Administrator’ means the Associate Administrator for Small Business Development Centers.

“(ii) **INDIAN LANDS.**—The term ‘Indian lands’ means, in the 48 contiguous States, land that is a ‘reservation’ for the purposes of section 4 of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1903) and land that is an ‘Indian reservation’ for the purposes of section 151.2 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this paragraph).

“(iii) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term ‘Indian tribe’ means a federally recognized Indian tribe.

“(iv) **INDIAN TRIBE MEMBER.**—The term ‘Indian tribe member’ means an individual who is a member of an Indian tribe.

“(v) **ALASKA NATIVE.**—The term ‘Alaska Native’ means an individual who is—

“(I) a ‘Native’ for the purposes of section 3(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602(b));

“(II) a descendant of an individual who is a ‘Native’ for the purposes of section 3(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602(b)); or

“(III) a Tsimshian Indian who is an enrolled member of the Metlakatla Indian Community.

“(vi) **NATIVE HAWAIIAN.**—The term ‘Native Hawaiian’ means any individual who is a descendant of the aboriginal people, who prior to 1778, occupied and exercised sovereignty in the area that now constitutes the State of Hawaii.

“(H) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this paragraph \$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2004.

“(I) FUNDING LIMITATIONS.—

“(i) NONAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN LIMITATIONS.—Funding under this paragraph shall be in addition to the dollar program limitations specified in paragraph (4).

“(ii) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—The Administration may carry out this paragraph only with amounts appropriated in advance specifically to carry out this paragraph.”.

SEC. 4. STATE CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL TRIBAL COUNCILS.

Section 21(c) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(9) **ADVICE OF GOVERNING BODIES OF INDIAN TRIBES, ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATIONS AND OTHER ENTITIES, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATIONS.**—A State receiving grants under this section shall request the advice of the governing bodies of Indian tribes, corporations organized pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and other Alaska Native entities, and Native Hawaiian organizations, as appropriate, on how best to provide assistance to Indian tribe members, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians and where to locate satellite centers to provide such assistance.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2538.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my good friend, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), in offering this bill today.

While many Americans are justifiably anxious about a one-half percent jump in the unemployment rate, about 60 percent of our Native American population lives in or adjacent to Indian lands that suffer from an average unemployment rate of 45 percent. This past summer I had the opportunity to visit Santa Fe in the heart of the district of the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL); and at that time we held a hearing involving the contracting practices of one of our labs out there, the Los Alamos lab.

The evidence adduced at the hearing pointed out quite significantly that the Native American tribes are not getting

their share of the amount of Federal dollars that are being poured into the Los Alamos facility.

One of the purposes of this bill is to extend the facilities of the SBCDs, the Small Business Development Centers, of which there are over 1,000 in this country, for the purpose of business counseling and technical assistance to the Native Americans who may wish to become involved in the procurement process.

What is good about this bill, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that this is a self-help program, it involves the outlay of a relatively small amount of money, it is aimed directly at the Native Americans that really need the assistance, and it is the type of learning of business techniques that makes the Native Americans better able to compete to go after these Federal contracts and in the private sector.

So I join in the support of this bill and would encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 2538.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all, let me thank the majority leader for allowing this legislation to come before the House for consideration. I also would like to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman MANZULLO) and the ranking member, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELAZQUEZ), for their work and commitment to expanding small business opportunities for all Americans.

H.R. 2538 will establish a 3-year pilot program for providing grants to Small Business Development Centers for assisting Native American, Native Alaskan and Native Hawaiian populations with their small business development needs.

Today we have demonstrated how important small business is to the health of our economy, but there are still places in this country where economic prosperity has often failed to reach. These areas deserve our attention and assistance.

Consider this: nowhere in America has poverty persisted longer than on or near Native American reservations, which suffer an average unemployment rate of 45 percent. However, the number of businesses owned by Indian tribe members and Native Alaskans grew by 84 percent from 1992 to 1997, and their gross receipts grew by 179 percent in that period. This is compared to all businesses which grew by 7 percent, and their total gross receipts grew by 40 percent in that period.

I would like to continue this growth and expansion of small enterprise through this legislation. My bill ensures that Native Americans, Native Alaskans and Native Hawaiians seeking to create, develop and expand small businesses, have full access to the

counseling and technical assistance available through the SBA's SBDC program. The business development tools offered by SBDCs can assist Native Americans with the information and opportunity to build sustainable businesses in their communities.

The Native American Small Business Development Act would permit State Small Business Development Centers to apply for Federal grants to establish one or more Native American Small Business Development Centers. In an effort to ensure the quality and success of the program, the proposal requires grant applicants to provide the SBA with their goals and objectives, including their experience in assisting entrepreneurs with the difficulties in operating a small business.

In addition, the applicant must show their ability to provide training and services to a representative number of Native Americans, Native Alaskans and Native Hawaiians. Most importantly, applicants must seek the advice of the local native population on specific needs and the location of services they will provide.

It is clear we can do more to aid Native American entrepreneurs. Not enough has been done to assist Native Americans in building their businesses, which in turn helps benefit their communities.

□ 1200

I hope to change that with this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I want to acknowledge the work of my colleagues on the Committee on Resources, in particular the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN). They contributed immensely to this bill in order to make sure that we are helping as many native Americans as possible, and particularly in clarifying the language as it applies to Alaska natives. I thank them for their contribution to this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), our ranking member and a very hardworking member on this piece of legislation.

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2538, the Native American Small Business Development Act. This is an important piece of legislation which we need now more than ever. I thank the gentleman from New Mexico for his hard work on this issue, and I congratulate him for bringing it to the floor today.

In the past decade, our economy has created more than 15 million new jobs and the greatest boom time on record. American small business has been an

integral part of this growth. Small companies and entrepreneurs employ half our workers, create jobs 75 percent faster than large firms, and make up nearly half our gross domestic product. They are the key to our success and will be the key to our economic recovery.

But the prosperity many Americans have enjoyed failed to reach some places in our country. Certain regions and communities peer over an ever-widening canyon that separates them from those better off. These areas deserve our attention and our help to fill that gap.

Nowhere in America is poverty more persistent than on and near Native American reservations where citizens suffer a staggering average unemployment rate of 45 percent. Over a third of reservation inhabitants live below the poverty line.

But one of the bright spots on many reservations during the past decade has been the growth of small business. From 1992 to 1997, the number of businesses owned by Native Americans grew by 84 percent. Their gross receipts also grew during that time by 179 percent. Those rates dwarf national figures for small business. Clearly, Native American enterprise is a powerful engine for renewal.

While such spirit is innate, success is learned. We know from consistent and incontrovertible evidence that technical assistance helps small companies. Entrepreneurs who learn business skills are twice as likely to succeed.

The gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), my good friend, understands this principle, which is why he introduced his innovative and valuable legislation. I commend him for his leadership and stewardship of this bill.

The Native American Small Business Development Act will provide the technical assistance and aid needed to spur and perpetuate an extraordinary burst of enterprise. It ensures that those seeking to develop small businesses will have full access to counseling and technical assistance provided by the SBA's Small Business Development Program.

With the economy in a downturn, we need this bill now more than ever, because enterprise is the engine of recovery. These hardworking entrepreneurs deserve the best service available to build and grow. This legislation will ensure they receive that aid which will help spread and sustain prosperity to every corner of our country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN).

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleagues in support of H.R. 2538, the Na-

tive American Small Business Development Act. Within the past decade, America's small businesses have experienced unprecedented growth and have contributed greatly to our Nation's economic upswing prior to September 11. Now they will be an important engine for recovery.

As the premier technical assistance providers to America's entrepreneurs, Small Business Development Centers are responsible, in large part, for the successes of small businesses.

We know that many of these businesses operate near or at their profit margin and do not have the additional resources to hire legal or technical experts. This is where the SBDCs step in to provide free or, in a few instances, low-cost technical assistance. Research shows that small businesses that receive this technical assistance are twice as likely to succeed as those which do not.

Mr. Speaker, for too long our Nation's Native American population, the first Americans, have been, as they have often been referred to as, the "forgotten people." As a member of the Committee on Resources, like the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), and as a person with Native American lineage myself, I want to commend the gentleman from New Mexico for introducing this bill, and I am pleased to support it, and I look forward to its passage today.

While our country has experienced economic prosperity over the past decade, the Native American community, including the Alaskan Natives and Native Hawaiian communities, continue to lag behind. For example, the average unemployment rate for Native American communities, particularly on reservations, averages about 45 percent, with one-third of Native Americans living below the poverty level. With only limited help, Native American small businesses have grown at a rate of 84 percent over the past 5 years, but we need to help them more. We need to help them do better.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2538 will provide \$7 million to fund a 3-year pilot program to provide technical assistance to Native American, Native Alaskan, and Native Hawaiian businesses. This program will give these businesses better access to the SBDC network, no matter where they are located. It will help to sustain and, hopefully, boost the growth of Native American, Native Alaskan and Hawaiian Native businesses which, in turn, will spur the much-needed economic growth in these communities.

Once again, I would like to commend the gentleman for championing this cause and bringing this legislation to the floor, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me congratulate the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) on the introduction of this bill. I also want to commend the chairman and ranking member for the efficient manner in which they have moved this legislation to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2538, the Native American Entrepreneurial Development Act. This legislation would provide \$7 million to fund a 3-year program for technical assistance to Native American businesses.

Mr. Speaker, the reality is that when we provide an opportunity for Native American businesses to grow and develop, to experience some sense of technical knowledge, to be able to come into the mainstream, then we are really doing the work, I think, that we were sent here to do.

I do not want to be redundant, but I certainly want to commend again the gentleman from New Mexico for his sensitivity and understanding and recognition of the needs of the people that he represents. Again, I commend the chairman, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO), and the ranking member for the efficiency and the good work of this Committee on Small Business. With all due respect to other committees, Mr. Speaker, I think that this is probably one of the most bipartisan, one of the most efficient committees in Congress, and we all do an outstanding job on it.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES).

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership on this issue, and I thank the chairman for his leadership on the committee.

I just rise very quickly to say that I had an opportunity to visit Ship Rock, New Mexico, with President Clinton when we went on the tour of the Digital Divide. At that time, I had a chance to visit an Indian reservation, and I had a chance to speak with and discuss with the people there the issues of small business. I am so happy that the gentleman has chosen and has had an opportunity to address this issue.

Secondly, I had a chance to visit the Small Business Development Center in Hawaii where they were doing innovative things on a lot of little small islands where they were able to put the counselor for the Small Business Development Center on a computer at one end and the people on the small islands at the other end to engage in counseling. So I am so happy that the gentleman has taken the leadership in this area, and I rise in support of him and congratulate him on the work he is doing, and the chairman as well.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me just thank the chairman of the committee, the gen-

tleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO), once again. I want to echo what has been said earlier, that we have one of the most bipartisan committees in the Congress, and I know because of all of the chairman's hard work we have gotten this bill through and gotten this done.

I want to take the opportunity to thank the staff on both sides and my staff member, Tony Martinez, who has worked very hard on this.

Members from both parties talked about visiting my district and learning from those experiences out there, and I think one of the things they learned is that we can make a real difference for Native American entrepreneurs with this piece of legislation.

So let me once again just thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) for all of his hard work.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the bill H.R. 2538, an important piece of legislation for the Native American small businesses community.

Now, more than ever, we need to develop and expand the Native American private sector. Industries employ a growing number of individuals on reservations. The expansion of small businesses positively impacts these communities by putting money directly into their hands and places them directly in control of their destinies.

In addition to creating new small businesses and enlarging existing ones we must provide management, technical, and research assistance to Native Americans who seek to create, develop, or expand small businesses. Only by providing them full access to the necessary business counseling and technical assistance can we ensure their success, a success that is so important to the future of those communities.

With our priority to support the Native American small business community, we build a stronger economy and provide jobs to tribal members. This will, in turn, open the doors for the future of the tribal Nations. Native Americans face various challenges and we have the obligation to actively pursue methods to improve the Native American standard of living.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2538 as amended, and wish to clarify how the program authorized in this bill operates with respect to my Alaska Native constituents.

H.R. 2538 as amended does not differ in substance from the bill as reported by the Committee on Small Business. Rather, the measure under consideration today simply recognizes the unique Native American policies that Congress has implemented in the State of Alaska, and clarifies how the grant program the bill authorizes will be implemented in that State.

In the 48 contiguous States, Congress's policy on Native Americans has focused on recognizing groups of Native Americans as "federally recognized tribes" that are distinct political entities and a majority of whose members reside on reservations and other land that is owned by the United States in trust.

However, while Congress has routinely designated groups of Alaska Natives as "tribes,"

it has done so for the sole purpose of ensuring that Alaska Natives are eligible for programs and services that the United States provides to Native Americans because of their status as Native Americans.

Congress has not recognized any group of Alaska Natives as a "federally recognized tribe" that is a distinct political entity.

Instead, since 1884 Congress has required Alaska Natives to be, at all locations in Alaska, subject to the same criminal and civil state laws that non-Native Alaskans are required to observe.

Consistent with that policy, in 1971 when it extinguished Alaska Native aboriginal title by enacting the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, Congress required Alaska Natives to organize business corporations under the laws of the state of Alaska and then directed the Secretary of the Interior to convey the corporations fee title to 44 million acres of Federal land.

The amendments made to H.R. 2538 as reported by the Committee on Small Business simply acknowledge that Congress' Alaska Native policy is quite different from the Native American policy that Congress has implemented in the 48 contiguous States. It will also ensure that the intent of H.R. 2538 can be effectively met in Alaska for the benefit of Alaska Natives.

I would like to thank the gentleman from New Mexico and the chairman and ranking members of the Small Business Committee, and their staff, for their assistance in making appropriate changes to the language in the bill as reported.

These amendments will ensure the programs authorized by H.R. 2538 assist Alaska Natives as intended. I support H.R. 2538 as amended.

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to support H.R. 2538, the Native American Entrepreneurial Development Act. This legislation is a great step forward for the small businesses owned and operated by Native Americans.

As many of us know, there are over 1,000 Small Business Development Centers across the United States serving over 600,000 businesses. Over 30 percent of those businesses are minority-owned. Unfortunately, while small businesses helped in our Nation's economic boom in the 1990s, Native American communities have lagged behind. Unemployment, especially on reservations, continues to be a rampant 45 percent. Even worse, nearly one in three Native Americans live far below the poverty line.

This legislation focuses on a \$7 million pilot program that will provide technical assistance to Native American businesses. Since Native American businesses have grown at a rate of 84 percent over the last 5 years, H.R. 2358 will help more Native Americans find success as they launch companies and access the Small Business Development Center's network.

I appreciate the work and leadership of my colleagues on this legislation. As we work together, I believe that we will find more positive solutions that will help Native Americans throughout the United States become more successful. I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 2358, the Native American Entrepreneurial Development Act, and give Native

American businesses the opportunity to access capitol, hire strong, skilled workers, and successfully negotiate Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, as co-chairman of the Congressional Native American Caucus, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2538, a bill that amends the Small Business Act to expand and improve the assistance provided by the Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) for Native American tribal members. Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians. I want to thank my good friend from New Mexico, Congressman TOM UDALL, for introducing this bill. I am proud to be an original cosponsor.

Mr. Speaker, the bill establishes a 3-year pilot project that allows any SBDC in a State, whose Native American tribal members, Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian populations are 1 percent of the State's total population, to apply for grants from the Small Business Administration. The grants will help the SBDCs to assist the small business owners with their entrepreneurial needs.

The purpose of this bill is to create jobs and to foster economic development on tribal lands. It is my hope that by using the existing structure of the Small Business Administration's SBDC program, small businesses on tribal land will have a better chance for success. Due to limited resources, the SBDC program has had a difficult time providing counseling and technical assistance to small business owners on tribal land. This bill will provide SBDC the adequate resources it needs to reach out to small business owners in Indian country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this measure.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2538, the Native American Small Business Development Act.

Native people throughout our country continues to struggle because they lack the basic economic infrastructure to support businesses. Consequently, the poverty rate for native people remains at an unacceptable level. According to the Census Bureau, the poverty rate for American Indians and Alaska Natives averaged 25.9 percent from 1998 through 2000.

In Hawaii, census data indicates that Native Hawaiians continue to be clustered in the state's poorest areas. According to the State of Hawaii's Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Native Hawaiians significantly lag behind the state's averages for family income and high school graduation rates. The unemployment rate for Native Hawaiians living in Hawaii during 2000 was 7.2 percent, well above the state average of 4.3 percent.

Despite these sobering statistics, native people continue to show a strong entrepreneurial spirit. These businesses are gateways allowing individuals to find their way out of poverty.

H.R. 2538 creates a 3-year pilot program to support this entrepreneurial spirit by providing grants to Small Business Development Centers that assist the small business needs of native people.

Under this bill, Small Business Development Centers can obtain \$300,000 grants to assist with outreach, development, and enhancement of small businesses owned by Indian tribe members, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians.

The bill will target the grants to businesses located on or near native lands, which will create new job opportunities for native people living in these areas.

The bill require states to consult with local native groups to determine the best way to provide assistance and where to locate satellite business centers. The cooperative nature of the relationship between the Small Business Development Centers and native people will help ensure the success of the program.

I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 2538 and help provide small business opportunities to Native Americans throughout America.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2538, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend the Small Business Act to expand and improve the assistance provided by Small Business Development Centers to Indian tribe members, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS IN HONORING THE CREW AND PASSENGERS OF UNITED AIRLINES FLIGHT 93

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 232) expressing the sense of the Congress in honoring the crew and passengers of United Airlines Flight 93.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 232

Whereas on September 11, 2001, acts of war were committed against the United States, killing and injuring thousands of innocent people;

Whereas these attacks were directed at the World Trade Center in New York, New York, and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., which are symbols of the Nation's economic and military strength;

Whereas United Airlines Flight 93 was hijacked by terrorists as part of these attacks;

Whereas while Flight 93 was still in the air, passengers and crew, through cellular phone conversations with loved ones on the ground, learned that other hijacked airplanes had been used in these attacks;

Whereas during these phone conversations several of the passengers indicated that there was an agreement among the passengers and crew to try to overpower the hijackers who had taken over the aircraft;

Whereas it is believed that it was this effort to overpower the hijackers that caused Flight 93 to crash in southwestern Pennsylvania, short of what is believed to have been its intended target: Washington, D.C.; and

Whereas the crash resulted in the death of everyone on board the aircraft: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) on September 11, 2001, the passengers and crew of hijacked United Airlines Flight 93 possibly averted the use of that aircraft in a further terrorist attack on the United States by attempting to overpower the hijackers;

(2) the United States owes its deepest gratitude to the passengers and crew of Flight 93, and extends its condolences to the families and friends of Captain Jason Dahl, First Officer Leroy Homer, flight attendants Lorraine G. Bay, Sandra W. Bradshaw, Wanda A. Green, Ceecee Lyles, Deborah A. Welsh, and passengers Christian Adams, Todd Beamer, Alan Beaven, Mark Bingham, Thomas Burnett, William Cashman, Georgine Corrigan, Joseph Deluca, Patrick Driscoll, Edward Felt, Jane C. Folger, Colleen Fraser, Andrew Garcia, Jeremy Glick, Kristin Gould, Lauren Grandcolas, Donald Greene, Linda Gronlund, Richard Guadagno, Toshiya Kuge, Hilda Marcin, Waleska Martinez, Nicole Miller, Louis J. Nacke, Donald Peterson, Mark Rothenberg, John Talignani, Honor Elizabeth Wainio, and 9 passengers whose families wish them to remain anonymous; and

(3) a memorial plaque to these victims should be placed on the grounds of the Capitol, and a copy of the wording of the plaque, together with a copy of this resolution from the Congressional Record, should be sent to a designated survivor of each victim.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA).

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution was introduced by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. FLETCHER). As of yesterday, it had 131 cosponsors, and I know many others are interested in cosponsoring this important resolution.

The resolution was introduced on September 20, 2001, 9 days after the September 11 attack on America.

In my view, all the victims who gave their lives on September 11 are American heroes. Of course, much attention has been rightfully focused on the heroes that took heroic actions in the World Trade Center and also in the Pentagon. But, Mr. Speaker, the passengers of United Flight 93 deserve special recognition.

As the fourth plane hijacked on that day, the passengers, unfortunately, knew the fate that awaited them. Rather than accept that fate, however, the passengers of Flight 93 acted. We know they courageously fought back against the terrorists. While they did not succeed in saving the aircraft or their own lives, they were able to prevent hijackers from achieving their horrible objectives. In that process, Mr. Speaker, they lost their lives, and they lost their lives conducting heroic actions.