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110TH CONGRESS
2d Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT
110–926

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITY

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

FOR THE

ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS



JANUARY 2, 2009.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS,
Washington, DC, January 2, 2009.

Hon. LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. MILLER: Pursuant to clause 1(d) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives for the 110th Congress, I present herewith a report on the activity of the Committee on Small Business for the 110th Congress, including the Committee's review and study of legislation within its jurisdiction, and the oversight activities undertaken by the Committee.

Yours truly,

NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ,
Chairwoman.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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JANUARY 2, 2009.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, from the Committee on Small Business, submitted to the Committee on the Budget the following

R E P O R T

Clause 1(d) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives for the 110th Congress requires that each standing committee, not later than January 2 of each odd-numbered year, submit to the House a report on the activities of that committee, including separate sections summarizing the legislative and oversight activities of that committee during that Congress.

JURISDICTION AND SPECIAL OVERSIGHT FUNCTION

Clause 1(p) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives for the 110th Congress sets forth the jurisdiction of the Committee on Small Business as follows—

(1) Assistance to and protection of small business, including financial aid, regulatory flexibility, and paperwork reduction.

(2) Participation of small business enterprises in Federal procurement and Government contracts.

Clause 3(l) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives for the 110th Congress sets forth the Special Oversight Function of the Committee on Small Business as follows—

The Committee on Small Business shall study and investigate on a continuing basis the problems of all types of small business.

REAFFIRMATION OF COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS JURISDICTION

"Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm the jurisdiction of the Committee on Small Business as contained in House Rule X, clause 1(p). The Committee's jurisdiction includes the Small Business Administration and its programs, as well as small business matters related to the Regulatory Flexibility Act and the Paperwork Reduction Act. Its jurisdiction under House Rule X, clause 1(p) also includes other programs and initiatives that address small businesses outside of the confines of those Acts.

This reaffirmation of the jurisdiction of the Committee on Small Business will enable the House to ensure that it is properly considering the consequences of its actions related to small business."

Louise Slaughter, Chairwoman, Committee of Rules

Consideration of H. Res. 6, Adopting the Rules of the House of Representatives for the One Hundredth Tenth Congress, January 4, 2007

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS FOR THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

The Rules of the House of Representatives, and in particular the committee rules enumerated in rule XI, are the rules of the Committee on Small Business to the extent applicable and by this reference are incorporated. Each subcommittee of the Committee on Small Business (hereinafter referred to as the "committee") is a part of the committee and is subject to the authority and direction of the committee, and to its rules to the extent applicable.

2. REFERRAL OF BILLS BY CHAIRWOMAN

Unless retained for consideration by the committee, all legislation and other matters referred to the committee shall be referred by the Chairwoman to the subcommittee of appropriate jurisdiction within 14 calendar days. Where the subject matter of the referral involves the jurisdiction of more than one subcommittee or does not fall within any previously assigned jurisdictions, the Chairwoman shall refer the matter, as she may deem advisable.

3. DATE OF MEETING

The regular meeting date of the committee shall be the second Thursday of every month when the House is in session. A regular meeting of the committee may be dispensed with if, in the judgment of the Chairwoman, there is no need for the meeting. Additional meetings may be called by the Chairwoman as she may deem necessary or at the request of a majority of the members of the committee in accordance with clause 2(c) of rule XI of the House.

At least 3 days' notice of such an additional meeting shall be given unless the Chairwoman determines that there is good cause to call the meeting on less notice. The determination of the busi-

ness to be considered at each meeting shall be made by the Chairwoman subject to clause 2(c) of rule XI of the House.

A regularly scheduled meeting need not be held if there is no business to be considered or, upon at least 3 days' notice, it may be set for a different date.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF HEARINGS

Unless the Chairwoman, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, or the committee by majority vote, determines that there is good cause to begin a hearing at an earlier date, public announcement shall be made of the date, place and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted by the committee at least 7 calendar days before the commencement of that hearing.

After announcement of a hearing, the committee shall make available as soon as practicable to all Members of the committee a tentative witness list and to the extent practicable a memorandum explaining the subject matter of the hearing (including relevant legislative reports and other necessary material). In addition, the Chairwoman shall make available as soon as practicable to the Members of the committee any official reports from departments and agencies on the subject matter as they are received.

5. MEETINGS AND HEARINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

(A) Meetings

Each meeting of the committee or its subcommittees for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, shall be open to the public, including to radio, television and still photography coverage, except as provided by clause 4 of rule XI of the House, except when the committee or subcommittee, in open session and with a majority present, determines by record vote that all or part of the remainder of the meeting on that day shall be closed to the public because disclosure of matters to be considered would endanger national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or would tend to defame, degrade or incriminate any person or otherwise would violate any law or rule of the House; *Provided, however*, that no person other than members of the committee, and such congressional staff and such executive branch representatives as they may authorize, shall be present in any business meeting or markup session which has been closed to the public.

(B) Hearings

Each hearing conducted by the committee or its subcommittees shall be open to the public, including radio, television and still photography coverage, except when the committee or subcommittee, in open session and with a majority present, determines by record vote that all or part of the remainder of the hearing on that day shall be closed to the public because disclosure of testimony, evidence or other matters to be considered would endanger the national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or would violate any law or rule of the House; *Provided, however*, that the committee or subcommittee may by the same procedure vote to close one subsequent day of hearings. Notwithstanding the requirements of the preceding sentence, a majority of

those present, there being in attendance the requisite number required under the rules of the committee to be present for the purpose of taking testimony, (i) may vote to close the hearing for the sole purpose of discussing whether testimony or evidence to be received would endanger the national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or violate clause 2(k)(5) of rule XI of the House; or (ii) may vote to close the hearing, as provided in clause 2(k)(5) of rule XI of the House.

All members of the committee shall be able to participate in any subcommittee hearing. No member of the House may be excluded from non-participatory attendance at any hearing of the committee or any subcommittee, unless the House of Representatives shall by majority vote authorize the committee or subcommittee, for purposes of a particular series of hearings on a particular article of legislation or on a particular subject of investigation, to close its hearing to members by the same procedures designated for closing hearings to the public. Such members who would like to participate shall notify the Ranking Minority Member and submit a request to the Chairwoman one day in advance of such hearing.

6. WITNESSES

(A) Statement of witnesses

Each witness who is to appear before the committee or subcommittee shall file with the committee at least two business days before the day of his or her appearance 75 copies of his or her written statement of proposed testimony. Each witness shall also submit to the committee a copy of his or her final prepared statement in an electronic format at that time.

At least one copy of the statement of each witness shall be furnished directly to the Ranking Minority Member. In addition, all witnesses shall be required to submit with their testimony a curriculum vitae or other statement describing their education, employment, professional affiliations and other background information pertinent to their testimony unless waived by the Chairwoman. Each witness will complete a disclosure form detailing any contracts or business that they currently have with the federal government.

The committee will provide public access to its printed materials, including the proposed testimony of witnesses, in electronic form.

(B) Interrogation of witnesses

Whenever any hearing is conducted by the committee or any subcommittee upon any measure or matter, the minority party members on the committee shall be entitled, upon request to the Chairwoman by a majority of those minority members, to call a witness or witnesses selected by the minority to testify with respect to that measure or matter. The minority shall be entitled to a ratio of one-third of the witnesses testifying. For the purposes of determining this ratio, it shall not include testifying government officials. The witnesses requested by the minority shall be invited to testify by the Chairwoman and must furnish at least one copy of his or her statement and any supplementary materials directly to the Chairwoman within one business day before the day of his or her appearance unless waived by the Chairwoman.

Except when the committee adopts a motion pursuant to subdivisions (B) and (C) of clause 2(j)(2) of rule XI of the rules of the House, committee members may question witnesses only when they have been recognized by the Chairwoman for that purpose, and only for a 5-minute period until all members present have had an opportunity to question a witness. The Chairwoman and the Ranking Member shall not be subject to the 5-minute period limitation. For all other Committee Members, the 5-minute period for questioning a witness by any one member can be extended only with the unanimous consent of all members present. The Chairwoman, followed by the Ranking Minority Member and all other members alternating between the majority and minority, shall initiate the questioning of witnesses in both the full and subcommittee hearings. The order for questioning by members of each party shall be determined by the time in which the member arrived at the hearing after the gavel has been struck, with the first arriving having priority over members of his or her party. If members arrive at the same time, then seniority shall dictate the order.

In recognizing members to question witnesses, the Chairwoman may take into consideration the ratio of majority and minority members present in such a manner as not to disadvantage the Members of either party. The Chairwoman, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, may decrease the 5-minute time period in order to accommodate the needs of all the Members present and the schedule of the witnesses.

7. SUBPOENAS

A subpoena may be authorized and issued by the committee in the conduct of any investigation or series of investigations or activities to require the attendance and testimony of such witness and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers and documents, as deemed necessary. Such a subpoena shall be authorized by a majority vote of the full committee. The requirement that the authorization of a subpoena require a majority vote may be waived by the Ranking Minority Member. The Chairwoman may issue a subpoena, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, when the House is out for more than three legislative days.

8. QUORUM

No measure or recommendation shall be reported unless a majority of the committee was actually present. For purposes of taking testimony or receiving evidence, there shall be one member from the majority and one member from the minority for the purposes of a quorum. Such requirement shall be waived for field hearings. For all other purposes, one-third of the members (or 11 Members) shall constitute a quorum.

9. AMENDMENTS DURING MARK-UP

Any amendment offered to any pending legislation before the committee must be made available in written form when requested by any member of the committee. If such amendment is not available in written form when requested, the Chairwoman shall allow an appropriate period for the provision thereof.

10. POSTPONEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS

The Chairwoman in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member may postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving any measure or matter or adopting an amendment. The Chairwoman may resume proceedings postponed at any time, but no later than the next meeting day. In exercising postponement authority, the Chairwoman shall take all reasonable steps necessary to notify members on the resumption of proceedings on any postponed recorded vote. When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

11. NUMBER AND JURISDICTION OF SUBCOMMITTEES

There will be five subcommittees as follows:

Finance and Tax (6 Democratic Members and 5 Republican Members); Contracting and Technology (6 Democratic Members and 5 Republican Members); Regulations, Health Care, and Trade (8 Democratic Members and 7 Republican Members); Rural and Urban Entrepreneurship (7 Democratic Members and 6 Republican Members); Investigations and Oversight (4 Democratic Members and 3 Republican Members).

During the 110th Congress, the Chairwoman and Ranking Minority Member shall be ex officio members of all subcommittees, without vote, and the full committee shall have the authority to conduct oversight of all areas of the committee's jurisdiction. In addition, all members of the committee may participate in hearings of any subcommittee of the committee. In addition to conducting oversight in the area of their respective jurisdiction, each subcommittee shall have the following jurisdiction:

Subcommittee on Finance and Tax

The Small Business Administration (SBA) Lending and Investment programs: Section 7(a) loan program, 504 Certified Development Company program, Small Business Investment Company program, Disaster Loan Assistance programs, and Microloan program.

Access to capital and finance issues generally.

Oversight over tax policy and retirement/pension matters affecting small businesses

Subcommittee on Contracting and Technology

SBA Contracting programs including the following: Section 8(a) Business Development program, Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB) certification operated by SBA, Women's Procurement Program, HUBZone program, Surety Bond program, Service-disabled veteran procurement, and Section 7(j) management and technical assistance program SBA Technology programs: Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program, Small Business Technology Transfer program.

Oversight of government-wide procurement practices and programs affecting small businesses.

Oversight of technology and patent issues.

Subcommittee on Regulations, Health Care, and Trade

The Regulatory Flexibility Act, the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act, and the Paperwork Reduction Act.

SBA's Office of Advocacy, National Ombudsman, and SBA small business size standards.

Oversight of regulations and regulatory issues that affect small businesses.

Oversight of health care coverage issues.

Oversight over issues affecting small health care providers.

Oversight of trade issues, including SBA's Office of International Trade.

Subcommittee on Rural and Urban Entrepreneurship

SBA entrepreneurial development programs: Women's Business Centers, National Veterans Business Development Corporation, Small Business Development Centers, SCORE, Drug Free Workplace program, Office of Women's Business Ownership, and National Women's Business Council (NWBC).

New Markets Venture Capital (NMVC) program, New Markets Tax Credit program, BusinessLINC and the Program for Re-Investment in Micro entrepreneurs.

General oversight of programs targeted toward urban and rural economic growth as well as general federal government entrepreneurial development programs.

Oversight of agricultural issues.

Oversight of energy issues.

Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight

Oversight of SBA Administration, Management, and Agency Practices.

Oversight of activities by the Office of the Inspector General at SBA.

12. COMMITTEE STAFF

(A) Majority staff

The employees of the committee, except those assigned to the minority as provided below, shall be appointed and assigned, and may be removed by the Chairwoman. The Chairwoman shall fix their remuneration, and they shall be under the general supervision and direction of the Chairwoman.

(B) Minority staff

The employees of the committee assigned to the minority shall be appointed and assigned, and their remuneration determined, as the Ranking Minority Member of the committee shall determine.

(C) Subcommittee staff

The Chairwoman and Ranking Minority Member of the full committee shall endeavor to ensure that sufficient staff is made available to each subcommittee to carry out its responsibilities under the rules of the committee.

13. POWERS AND DUTIES OF SUBCOMMITTEES

Each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence, and report to the full committee on all matters referred to it. Subcommittee chairmen shall set meeting and hearing dates after approval of the Chairwoman of the full committee. Meetings and hearings of subcommittees shall not be scheduled to occur simultaneously with meetings or hearings of the full committee.

14. RECORDS

The committee shall keep a complete record of all actions, which shall include a record of the votes on any question on which a record vote is demanded. The result of each subcommittee record vote, together with a description of the matter voted upon, shall promptly be made available to the full committee. A record of such votes shall be made available for inspection by the public at reasonable times in the offices of the committee. The committee shall keep a complete record of all committee and subcommittee activity which, in the case of any meeting or hearing transcript, shall include a substantially verbatim account of remarks actually made during the proceedings, subject only to technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections authorized by the person making the remarks involved.

The records of the committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available in accordance with rule VII of the Rules of the House. The Chairwoman of the full committee shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of the full committee of any decision, pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of rule VII of the House, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the committee for a determination of the written request of any member of the committee.

15. ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED OR SENSITIVE INFORMATION

Access to classified or sensitive information supplied to the committee and attendance at closed sessions of the committee or its subcommittees shall be limited to members and necessary committee staff and stenographic reporters who have appropriate security clearance when the Chairwoman determines that such access or attendance is essential to the functioning of the committee.

The procedures to be followed in granting access to those hearings, records, data, charts, and files of the committee which involve classified information or information deemed to be sensitive shall be as follows:

(A) Only Members of the House of Representatives and specifically designated committee staff of the Committee on Small Business may have access to such information.

(B) Members who desire to read materials that are in the possession of the committee should notify the clerk of the committee.

(C) The clerk will maintain an accurate access log, which identifies the circumstances surrounding access to the information, without revealing the material examined.

(D) If the material desired to be reviewed is material which the committee or subcommittee deems to be sensitive enough to require special handling, before receiving access to such information, individuals will be required to sign an access information sheet ac-

knowledging such access and that the individual has read and understands the procedures under which access is being granted.

(E) Material provided for review under this rule shall not be removed from a specified room within the committee offices.

(F) Individuals reviewing materials under this rule shall make certain that the materials are returned to the proper custodian.

(G) No reproductions or recordings may be made of any portion of such materials.

(H) The contents of such information shall not be divulged to any person in any way, form, shape, or manner, and shall not be discussed with any person who has not received the information in an authorized manner.

(I) When not being examined in the manner described herein, such information will be kept in secure safes or locked file cabinets in the committee offices.

(J) These procedures only address access to information the committee or a subcommittee deems to be sensitive enough to require special treatment.

(K) If a member of the House of Representatives believes that certain sensitive information should not be restricted as to dissemination or use, the member may petition the committee or subcommittee to so rule. With respect to information and materials provided to the committee by the executive branch, the classification of information and materials as determined by the executive branch shall prevail unless affirmatively changed by the committee or the subcommittee involved, after consultation with the appropriate executive agencies.

(L) Other materials in the possession of the committee are to be handled in accordance with the normal practices and traditions of the committee.

16. OTHER PROCEDURES

The Chairwoman of the full committee may establish such other procedures and take such actions as may be necessary to carry out the foregoing rules or to facilitate the effective operation of the committee.

17. AMENDMENTS TO COMMITTEE RULES

The rules of the committee may be modified, amended or repealed by a majority of the members, at a meeting specifically called for such purpose, but only if written notice of the proposed change has been provided to each such member at least 3 days before the time of the meeting.

18. BUDGET AND TRAVEL

(A) From the amount provided to the Committee in the primary expense resolution adopted by the U.S. House of Representatives for the 110th Congress, the Chairwoman, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, shall designate one-third of the budget under the direction of the Ranking Minority Member for the purposes of minority staff, travel expenses of minority staff and members, and minority office expenses.

(B) The Chairwoman may authorize travel in connection with activities or subject matters under the general jurisdiction of the Committee.

(C) The Ranking Minority Member may authorize travel for any minority member or minority committee staff member in connection with activities or subject matters under the general jurisdiction of the Committee. Before such travel, there shall be submitted to the Chairwoman in writing the following at least seven calendar days prior:

The purpose of the travel.

The dates during which the travel is to occur.

The names of the States or countries to be visited and the length of time spent in each.

The names of members and staff of the committee participating in such travel.

At the conclusion of such travel, a summary of the activity and its accomplishments shall be provided to the Chairwoman within ten calendar days.

19. COMMITTEE WEBSITE

The Chairwoman shall maintain an official Committee website for the purpose of furthering the Committee's legislative and oversight responsibilities, including communicating information about the Committee's activities to Committee members and other Members of the House. The Ranking Minority Members may maintain a similar website for the same purpose, including communicating information about the activities of the minority to Committee members and other Members of the House.

20. VICE CHAIR

Pursuant to House Rules, the Chairwoman shall designate a member of the majority party to serve as Vice Chairman of the Committee. The Vice Chairman shall preside at any meeting or hearing during the temporary absence of the Chairwoman. If the Chairwoman and Vice Chairman are not present at any meeting or hearing, the ranking member of the majority who is present shall preside at the meeting or hearing.

MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

FULL COMMITTEE LIST

Rep. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ (NY–12), *Chair*
Rep. HEATH SHULER (NC–11)
Rep. CHARLIE GONZALEZ (TX–20)
Rep. RICK LARSEN (WA–02)
Rep. RAÚL GRIJALVA (AZ–07)
Rep. MICHAEL MICHAUD (ME–02)
Rep. MELISSA BEAN (IL–08)
Rep. HENRY CUELLAR (TX–28)
Rep. DAN LIPINSKI (IL–03)
Rep. GWEN MOORE (WI–04)
Rep. JASON ALTMIRE (PA–04)
Rep. BRUCE BRALEY (IA–01)
Rep. YVETTE CLARKE (NY–11)
Rep. BRAD ELLSWORTH (IN–08)
Rep. HENRY "HANK" JOHNSON (GA–04)
Rep. JOE SESTAK (PA–07)
Rep. BRIAN HIGGINS (NY–27)[1]
Rep. MAZIE HIRONO (HI–02)[2]
Rep. STEVE CHABOT (OH–01), *Ranking Member*
Rep. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT (MD–06)
Rep. SAM GRAVES (MO–06)
Rep. W. TODD AKIN (MO–02)
Rep. BILL SHUSTER (PA–09)
Rep. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE (CO–04)
Rep. STEVE KING (IA–05)
Rep. JEFF FORTENBERRY (NE–01)
Rep. LYNN WESTMORELAND (GA–03)
Rep. LOUIE GOHMERT (TX–01)
Rep. DAVID DAVIS (TN–01)
Rep. MARY FALLIN (OK–05)
Rep. VERN BUCHANAN (FL–13)
VACANT[3]
VACANT[4]

[1] Added 10/03/07. Replaced Rep. Juanita Millender-McDonald.
[2] Added 10/03/07. Replaced Rep. William Jefferson.
[3] Vacancy due to Dean Heller's departure from the Committee on February, 2008.
[4] Vacancy due to Jim Jordan's departure from the Committee on March, 2008.

SUBCOMMITTEE LIST

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND TAX

Rep. MELISSA BEAN (IL–08), *Chair*
Rep. RAÚL GRIJALVA (AZ–07)
Rep. MICHAEL MICHAUD (ME–02)
Rep. HENRY "HANK" JOHNSON (GA–04)
Rep. JOE SESTAK (PA–07)
Rep. BRAD ELLSWORTH (IN–08)
Rep. VERN BUCHANAN (FL–13), *Ranking Member*[5]
Rep. BILL SHUSTER (PA–09)
Rep. STEVE KING (IA–05)
VACANT[6]
VACANT[7]

[5] Rep. Buchanan was named Ranking Member after the original ranking member, Rep. Heller, left the Committee.
[6] Vacancy due to Rep. Dean Heller's departure from the Committee on February, 2008.
[7] Vacancy due to Rep. Jim Jordan's departure from the Committee on March, 2008.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONTRACTING AND TECHNOLOGY

Rep. BRUCE BRALEY (IA–01), *Chair*
Rep. HENRY CUELLAR (TX–28)
Rep. GWEN MOORE (WI–04)
Rep. YVETTE CLARKE (NY–11)
Rep. JOE SESTAK (PA–07)
VACANT[8]
Rep. DAVID DAVIS (TN–01), *Ranking Member*
Rep. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT (MD–06)
Rep. SAM GRAVES (MO–06)
Rep. W. TODD AKIN (MO–02)
Rep. MARY FALLIN (OK–05)

[8] Vacancy due to Rep. William Jefferson's departure from the Committee on June, 2007.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS, HEALTH CARE, AND TRADE

Rep. CHARLIE GONZALEZ (TX–20), *Chair*
Rep. DAN LIPINSKI (IL–03)
Rep. RICK LARSEN (WA–02)
Rep. JASON ALTMIRE (PA–04)
Rep. MELISSA BEAN (IL–08)
Rep. GWEN MOORE (WI–04)
Rep. JOE SESTAK (PA–07)
VACANT[9]

Rep. LYNN WESTMORELAND (GA–03), *Ranking Member*
Rep. BILL SHUSTER (PA–09)
Rep. STEVE KING (IA–05)
Rep. MARY FALLIN (OK–05)
Rep. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE (CO–04)
Rep. VERN BUCHANAN (FL–13)
VACANT[10]

[9] Vacancy due to Rep. William Jefferson's departure from the Committee on June, 2007.
[10] Vacancy due to Rep. Jim Jordan's departure from the Committee on March, 2008.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON RURAL AND URBAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Rep. HEATH SHULER (NC–11), *Chair*
Rep. RICK LARSEN (WA–02)
Rep. BRAD ELLSWORTH (IN–08)
Rep. MICHAEL MICHAUD (ME–02)
Rep. GWEN MOORE (WI–04)
Rep. YVETTE CLARKE (NY–11)
Rep. HENRY "HANK" JOHNSON (GA–04)

Rep. JEFF FORTENBERRY (NE–01), *Ranking Member*
Rep. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE (CO–04)
Rep. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT (MD–06)
Rep. DAVID DAVIS (TN–01)
VACANT[11]
VACANT

[11] Vacancy due to Rep. Dean Heller's departure from the Committee on February, 2008.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS AND OVERSIGHT

Rep. JASON ALTMIRE (PA–04), *Chair*
Rep. CHARLIE GONZALEZ (TX–20)
Rep. RAÚL GRIJALVA (AZ–07)
VACANT

Rep. MARY FALLIN (OK–05), *Ranking Member*[12]
Rep. LYNN WESTMORELAND (GA–03)
VACANT

[12] Rep. Louie Gohmert was originally the Ranking Member.

COMMITTEE STAFF

MAJORITY STAFF

Michael Day, Staff Director
Adam Minehardt, Deputy Staff Director
Tim Slattery, Chief Counsel
Andy Jiminez, Banking Counsel
Erik Lieberman, Regulatory Counsel
Mark Palmer, Agriculture Counsel
LeAnn Delaney, Senior Procurement Counsel
Naveen Parmar, Tax Counsel
Tom Dawson, Health Care Counsel
Nicole Witenstein, Trade Counsel
Bill Maguire, Technology Counsel
Russell Orban, General Counsel
Melody Reis, Professional Staff
Gail O'Connor, Press Secretary
Erin Donar, Deputy Press Secretary
Luis Hestres, Web Coordinator
Darienne Gutierrez, Staff Assistant
Eduardo Lerma, Staff Assistant
Moraima Garcia, Office Manager

MINORITY STAFF

Kevin Fitzpatrick, Staff Director
Janet Oliver, Deputy Staff Director
Barry Pineles, Chief Counsel
Joe Hartz, Professional Staff Member
Lisa Christian, Professional Staff
Kathryn Fox, Press Secretary
Laura Danner, Staff Assistant

LEGISLATIVE AND OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

During the 110th Congress, 80 bills were referred to the Committee on Small Business. The full Committee reported to the House or was discharged from the further consideration of 18 measures, not including conference reports. Six measures regarding matters within the Committee's jurisdiction were enacted into law.

The following is a summary of the legislative and oversight activities of the Committee on Small Business during the 110th Congress, including a summary of the activities taken by the Committee to implement its Oversight Plan for the 110th Congress.

FULL COMMITTEE

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR AN ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS UNDER THE SMALL BUSINESS ACT AND THE SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958 THROUGH JULY 31, 2007, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

(H.R. 434)

Summary

H.R. 434 extended the programs authorized under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through July 31, 2007.

Legislative history

H.R. 434 was introduced by Ranking Member Steve Chabot on January 12, 2007. Original Cosponsors included the Committee Chairwoman Nydia Velázquez. The bill was referred to the Committee on Small Business.

On January 17, 2007, the House considered H.R. 434 under suspension of the rules. At the conclusion of debate, the yeas and nays were demanded and ordered. On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 434 was passed by a record vote of 413 yeas to 2 nays (Roll no. 28).

On January 18, 2007, H.R. 434 was received in the Senate. On February 1, 2007, the Senate amended H.R. 434 by unanimous consent and agreed to Senate Amendments 229 and 230. This passed the Senate by unanimous consent on the same day. On February 7, 2007, the House agreed to suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendments by voice vote. On February 15, 2007, the legislation was signed by the President and became Public Law 110–4.

THE SMALL BUSINESS LENDING IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2007

(H.R. 1332)

A bill to improve the access to capital lending programs of the Small Business Administration.

Summary

H.R. 1332, the Small Business Lending Improvements Act of 2007, updates and streamlines the SBA's two largest small business finance programs, the 7(a) and 504 (also known as the Certified Development Company) programs. The bill makes the 7(a) program more affordable to borrowers and lenders by providing the SBA with authority to contribute funds for the purpose of reducing the burden associated with borrower and lender fees on 7(a) loans. The bill also adapts the 7(a) program to achieve specific public pol-

icy objectives through improved access to the program for medical professionals in health professional shortage areas and military veterans.

The bill also focuses on encouraging increased lender participation in the 7(a) program by establishing programs within the 7(a) framework that simplify and streamline the lending process. A rural lender outreach program will reduce the paperwork burden associated with 7(a) loans, and a Small Bank Outreach division within the SBA will provide community banks with direct support in their efforts to participate in the 7(a) program.

The Small Business Lending Improvements Act of 2007 also modernizes and improves the 504, Certified Development Company, program by making an array of technical changes to the program and addressing two of the program's most evident problems. The bill improves the program's ability to liquidate defaulted loans by permitting CDCs to either foreclose and liquidate defaulted loans or to contract with a qualified third party to do so. The bill enhances the ties between CDCs and the communities that they serve by requiring CDCs to include locals on the board of directors.

Legislative history

H.R. 1332 was introduced by Representative Melissa Bean on March 6, 2007. Original Cosponsors included the Committee Ranking Member Steve Chabot and Committee Chairwoman Nydia Velázquez. The bill was referred to the Committee on Small Business.

The Committee on Small Business held a hearing on March 8, 2007, and heard from the SBA's Associate Administrator for Capital Access on the Administration's views on the legislation. Additionally, the Committee received testimony from the American Dental Association, the Credit Union National Association, and the National Association of Development Companies who testified on the merits of the legislation and testified in support of its provisions.

The Committee on Small Business met in open session on March 15, 2007, and ordered H.R. 1332 reported to the House, with an amendment, with a favorable recommendation by a voice vote.

On April 24, 2007, the House adopted H. Res. 330, providing for consideration of H.R. 1332 under a modified open rule, by a voice vote. Also on that day, the House considered H.R. 1332 and passed the bill with an amendment, by a record vote of 380 ayes and 45 nays. On April 26, 2007, the bill was received in the Senate, read twice, and placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

No further action was taken on this legislation in the 110th Congress.

RELIEF FOR ENTREPRENEURS: COORDINATION OF OBJECTIVES AND VALUES FOR EFFECTIVE RECOVERY ACT OF 2007

(H.R. 1361)

A bill to reform and improve the disaster relief programs of the Small Business Administration.

Summary

The RECOVER Act was established to address specific problems in the Small Business Administration's (SBA) disaster assistance program that were identified following deficiencies in the SBA's response to the 2005 Gulf Coast Hurricanes. Most notably, the bill will ensure that the SBA performs comprehensive, risk-based, disaster planning on an annual basis and that the agency has mechanisms in place to maintain its disaster readiness over the long-term. The act also establishes several new disaster assistance tools to improve the disaster planning process, including the reorganization of the agency's Office of Disaster Assistance, a requirement that the agency engage in an annual disaster simulation exercise, and requirements that the agency formalize plans to address the need for additional space and employees in the event of a major disaster.

The act will also enhance the SBA's disaster loan program by improving the manner in which disaster loans are processed, approved, and disbursed, and by providing the agency with additional financial assistance tools that are intended to better fit the various needs of small businesses following a disaster. The bill will establish a bridge financing program to provide small businesses with emergency, small-dollar financing within 36 hours following a disaster. This program will provide vital funds to disaster victims during the 21-day target approval timeframe for conventional disaster loans. These immediate disaster assistance loans will be limited in amount and will be contingent upon the applicant applying for, and meeting basic eligibility standards for a conventional disaster loan. These factors are intended to limit the federal government's risk exposure under this program.

H.R. 1361 also establishes an Enhanced Lending Authority for Preferred Lenders Program that is intended to enable the SBA to enlist the resources of private lenders to process, approve, disburse, and service loans during incidents of national significance. This program may be implemented whenever the administrator sees fit or in two specific situations when the administration is most likely to need the additional loan processing, approval, and disbursement capacity that the private sector can provide. The Enhanced Lending Authority for Preferred Lenders Program loans are intended to carry the same favorable interest and repayment terms as conventional disaster loans administered under Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act.

The bill also creates a small grant program to assist the most severely affected small businesses damaged by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma. To ensure that grant assistance only goes to the neediest small businesses and is only used to spur redevelopment in communities where market forces have failed, the program will only be applicable under very limited circumstances. In order to receive a grant, a small business must have been located in those communities most severely damaged by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma, must have been in existence at least two years prior to the disaster, must have been rejected for a conventional SBA loan, must have remained economically viable following the disaster, and have certified that they will reopen their business in one of the affected communities. Only a small number of businesses are

expected to meet all of these requirements, and the program is intended to be administered at the discretion of the Administrator.

To enable the SBA to be more responsive to the needs of individual disaster victims, H.R. 1361 provides the administrator with authority to waive the prohibition on duplication of benefits stemming from state administered grant assistance programs. This provision will enable the SBA to assist those victims that were negatively impacted by deficiencies in the loan processing and disbursement process. These waivers will be available at the discretion of the Administrator of the SBA.

The bill also streamlines the SBA's loan processing and disbursement process and makes them more responsive to the needs of borrowers. The SBA will be required to develop, implement, and maintain a centralized system to track all communication written, verbal, and electronic, between disaster assistance applicants and agency employees. The SBA will also be required to provide follow-up information to disaster assistance applicants as their application moves through vital stages of the processing, approval, and disbursement process. The Act is intended to improve the way the SBA disburses approved assistance to victims by setting a minimum amount that must be disbursed in each disbursement stage unless the applicant requests a lesser amount.

Finally, a reporting requirement will ensure that members of Congress are adequately informed about all aspects of the SBA's disaster assistance and disaster planning programs so that they may provide the SBA with the support they need to fulfill their vital mission following a disaster.

Legislative history

H.R. 1361 was introduced by Chairwoman Nydia Velázquez on March 6, 2007. Original Cosponsors included Representatives Richard Baker, Charles Gonzalez, William Jefferson, Henry Johnson, Charlie Melancon, Gwen Moore, Bruce Braley, Raúl Grijalva, Daniel Lipinski, and Gene Taylor. The bill was referred to the Committee on Small Business.

The Committee on Small Business held a hearing on March 8, 2007, and heard from the SBA's Associate Administrator for Disaster Relief on the Administration's views on the legislation. Additionally, the Committee received testimony from a former director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the National Black Chamber of Commerce, and the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce, who testified on the merits of the legislation and testified in support of its provisions.

The Committee on Small Business met in open session on March 15, 2007, and ordered H.R. 1361 reported to the House, with an amendment, by a record vote of 17 ayes and 9 nays.

On April 18, 2007, the House adopted H. Res. 302, providing for consideration of H.R. 1332 under a modified open rule, by a voice vote. Also on that day, the House considered H.R. 1361 and passed the bill with an amendment, by a record vote of 267 ayes and 158 nays. On April 19, 2007, the bill was received in the Senate. On August 3, 2007, the bill was read twice in the Senate, and placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

No further action was taken on this legislation in the 110th Congress.

DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS DISASTER ELIGIBILITY ACT

(H.R. 1468)

To ensure that, for each small business participating in the 8(a) business development program that was affected by Hurricane Katrina of 2005, the period in which it can participate is extended by 18 months.

Summary

H.R. 1468, the "Disadvantaged Business Disaster Eligibility Act," allows companies participating in the program established by Section 8(a) of the Small Business Act ("the 8(a) program") 18 additional months of participation if those companies were located in a parish in the state of Louisiana that was declared a disaster as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

Legislative history

H.R. 1468 was introduced in the House by Rep. Jefferson on March 12, 2007. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Small Business. The legislation was marked-up and reported favorably out of the Committee on March 15, 2007 on a voice vote. On March 26, 2007, the bill was considered by the House under suspension of the rules and passed by a voice vote. On March 27, 2007, H.R. 1468 was received in the Senate, read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. No further action has been taken on this legislation.

SMALL BUSINESS FAIRNESS IN CONTRACTING ACT

(H.R. 1873)

To reauthorize the programs and activities of the Small Business Administration relating to procurement, and for other purposes.

Summary

H.R. 1873, the Small Business Fairness in Contracting Act, amends the Small Business Act to provide greater opportunities for small businesses in the procurement arena.

The bill closes loopholes in the definition of contract bundling, explicitly requiring both new work and construction to be screened for potential bundling.

The bill raises the small business contracting goal to 30 percent and includes overseas work, both of which will encourage greater participation of small businesses.

Finally, H.R. 1873 addresses fraud. Requiring reviews of various contracting databases will decrease the likelihood of counting large business contracts towards agency small business accomplishments.

Legislative history

H.R. 1873 was introduced in the House by Mr. Braley and two original cosponsors on April 17, 2007. The bill was referred to the

Committee on Small Business. On April 19, 2007, the Committee heard testimony on key contracting issues for small businesses and how H.R. 1873 would address those problems. The full Committee met in open session on April 24, 2007, to consider the legislation and ordered H.R. 1873 reported to the House in the nature of a substitute. The bill was sequentially referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform met in open session on May 1, 2007, to consider the legislation and ordered H.R. 1873 reported to the House in the nature of a substitute. On May 9, 2007, the House adopted H. Res. 383, providing for the consideration of H.R. 1873, by a vote of 223–197. On May 10, 2007, the House considered H.R. 1873 and passed the bill, with amendments, by a record vote of 409 yeas and 13 nays. On May 11, 2007, the bill was received in the Senate, read twice, and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

NATIVE AMERICAN SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2007

(H.R. 2284)

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.

Summary

The legislation targets federal entrepreneurial development resources to Native American communities. Given limited local resources and economic development opportunities in many of these communities, the bill leverages federal resources to support entrepreneurship.

H.R. 2284 provides grants to Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) to assist entrepreneurs with starting and expanding small businesses both within these communities and in the urban areas adjacent to reservations. It requires SBDC project recipients to adapt activities to the local context by requesting the advice of local Tribal Councils (or tribal governments) on how best assist Indian tribe members, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians and where to locate satellite centers to provide such services. The legislation also emphasizes the role the Association for Small Business Development Centers (ASBDC) will play in promulgating the regulations required under the legislation. The SBA must consult with the ASBDC in establishing standards relating to (1) educational, technical, and support services to be provided by SBDCs receiving grant monies, and (2) any work plan that is required to be submitted by an applicant.

Legislative history

H.R. 2284 was introduced by Congressman Tom Udall on May 10, 2007. Original Cosponsors included the Representatives Neil Abercrombie, Raúl Grijalva, Michael Honda, Michael Michaud, James Moran, David Wu, Stephanie Herseth, Betty McCollum, Dennis Moore, and Rick Renzi. The bill was referred to the Committee on Small Business.

The Committee on Small Business held a hearing on May 16, 2007, and heard from the SBA's Acting Assistant Administrator for the Office of Entrepreneurial Development on the Administration's views on the legislation. Additionally, the Committee received testimony from the Pennsylvania Small Business Development Center, the New Mexico Small Business Development Center, and the Association of Women's Business Centers who testified on the merits of the legislation.

The Committee on Small Business met in open session on May 23, 2007, and ordered H.R. 2284 reported to the House with a favorable recommendation by a voice vote.

On June 18, 2007, the House considered H.R. 2284 and postponed further proceedings on the motion. On June 20, 2007, the House passed the bill by a record vote of 351 ayes and 73 nays. On June 21, 2007, the bill was received in the Senate, read twice, and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

No further action was taken on this legislation in the 110th Congress.

THE SBA ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS ACT OF 2007

(H.R. 2359)

To reauthorize programs to assist small business concerns, and for other purposes.

Summary

The SBA Entrepreneurial Development Programs Act of 2007, H.R. 2359, amends key sections of the Small Business Act to assist small business owners gain the technical expertise associated with starting and running a successful business. The bill ensures that SBA entrepreneurial development programs reflect the current composition of small business owners and have the flexibility to address new needs and conditions.

H.R. 2359 enhances entrepreneurial development services at the agency in three main areas: operational changes, additional mandates, and the representation of entrepreneurial composition in program providers. Procedural improvements to SBA administered Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) are established to maintain high levels of service across the country. The role of SBDCs is also expanded, adding to their enumerated functions under the Small Business Act. SBA's SCORE program is also modified to reflect the growing numbers of entrepreneurs from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds by requiring administrators to recruit and maintain a higher representation of volunteers with diverse backgrounds.

Legislative history

H.R. 2359 was introduced by Congressman Joe Sestak on May 17, 2007. Original Cosponsors included the Committee Chairwoman Nydia Velázquez (NY–12), and Subcommittee on Rural and Urban Entrepreneurship, Small Business Committee Chair Heath Shuler. The bill was referred to the Committee on Small Business.

The Committee on Small Business held a hearing on May 16, 2007, and heard from the SBA's Acting Assistant Administrator for the Office of Entrepreneurial Development on the Administration's views on the legislation. Additionally, the Committee received testimony from the Pennsylvania Small Business Development Center, the New Mexico Small Business Development Center, and the Association of Women's Business Centers who testified on the merits of the legislation.

The Committee on Small Business met in open session on May 23, 2007, and ordered H.R. 2359 reported to the House with a favorable recommendation by a voice vote.

On June 18, 2007, the House considered H.R. 2359 and postponed further proceedings on the motion. On June 20, 2007, the House passed the bill by a record vote of 405 ayes and 18 nays. On June 21, 2007, the bill was received in the Senate, read twice, and placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. (Calendar No. 218).

No further action was taken on this legislation in the 110th Congress.

THE SBA VETERANS' PROGRAMS ACT OF 2007

(H.R. 2366)

To reauthorize the veterans entrepreneurial development programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

Summary

The SBA Veterans' Programs Act of 2007, H.R. 2366, amends key sections of the Small Business Act to promote increased veterans entrepreneurship. The bill was designed to ensure veterans have affordable, timely, and comprehensive access to start or grow small businesses through targeted resources and expertise at the agency.

H.R. 2366 enhances assistance to veteran entrepreneurs in three main areas: outreach, business counseling, and entrepreneurial development resources. The bill expands outreach to all service members by requiring SBA to participate at Transition Assistance Workshops located at military bases and to compile as well as distribute information on entrepreneurial development resources for women veterans. Additional resources are established to enable existing general business counseling centers located in communities across the country to develop new programs designed to support the sector's entrepreneurial needs. Building on the success of the agency's veterans programs, the bill also expands the network of counseling centers designed to specifically assist this population.

Legislative history

H.R. 2366 was introduced by Congressman Vern Buchanan on May 17, 2007. Original Cosponsors included the Committee Ranking Member Steve Chabot, Committee Chairwoman Nydia Velázquez, and Subcommittee on Rural and Urban Entrepreneurship, Small Business Committee Chair Heath Shuler. The bill was referred to the Committee on Small Business.

The Committee on Small Business held a hearing on May 16, 2007, and heard from the SBA's Acting Assistant Administrator for

the Office of Entrepreneurial Development on the Administration's views on the legislation. Additionally, the Committee received testimony from the Pennsylvania Small Business Development Center, the New Mexico Small Business Development Center, and the Association of Women's Business Centers who testified on the merits of the legislation.

The Committee on Small Business met in open session on May 23, 2007, and ordered H.R. 2366 reported to the House with a favorable recommendation by a voice vote.

On June 18, 2007, the House considered H.R. 2366 and passed the bill by a voice vote. On June 19, 2007, the bill was received in the Senate, read twice, and placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

No further action was taken on this legislation in the 110th Congress.

THE SMALL ENERGY EFFICIENT BUSINESSES ACT

(H.R. 2389, AND LATER INCORPORATE INTO H.R. 3221)

A bill to help small businesses to develop, invest in, and purchase energy efficient buildings, fixtures, equipment, and technology.

Summary

H.R. 2389, the Small Energy Efficient Business Act (SEEBA) provides information, technical assistance, and access to capital to help small businesses implement, develop, and market energy efficient goods, products, and services. The bill requires the Small Business Administration (SBA) to adapt existing lending and investment programs to provide incentives and needed capital for small business energy innovations and improvements.

The bill establishes a new lending program that would provide 7(a) loans that cost half the upfront guaranty and ongoing annual lender fees of regular 7(a) loans and a 90 percent guarantee if the proceeds of the loan are used to purchase or develop energy efficient technologies or reduce the borrower's energy consumption by 10 percent or more. The bill also permits small businesses to receive loans under the Certified Development Company Loan program (known as the 504 program) if the proceeds of the loan are used to reduce the borrower's energy consumption by at least 10 percent.

H.R. 2389 also adapts the SBA's investment programs to achieve increased investment in small businesses involved in the research, development, production, or marketing of energy efficient goods, products, or services by permitting licensed debenture SBICs to issue special Energy Saving (ES) Debentures that provide substantial benefits over existing debentures.

H.R. 2389 also creates a new program within the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 called the "Renewable Fuel Capital Investment Company" (RFCIC) program. This program will authorize the creation of new Renewable Fuel Capital Investment Companies (RFCICs) that issue SBA guaranteed debentures to invest in small businesses engaged in researching, manufacturing, developing, and bringing to market renewable energy sources. The debentures have discounts and deferred interest to reflect the development period.

The bill also reforms other SBA programs to make the agency a focal point for national small business energy strategy. H.R. 2389 directs the administrator of the SBA to develop and carry-out a national program to collect and provide small businesses with information about methods to promote energy savings-including best practices, energy saving equipment and operations, and the latest information on renewable energy sources. Additionally, the administrator is directed to produce a strategy for helping small businesses understand the cost savings from improved energy efficiency and identify programs that can help finance small business upgrades for this system.

H.R. 2389 also establishes a new program under which Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) can apply for special grants to help small and medium-sized firms evaluate energy efficiency and green building opportunities, understand the cost benefits of the efficiency measures or green building, secure financing to achieve energy efficiency or construction of green buildings, and empower management to implement energy efficiency projects.

Legislative history

H.R. 2389 was introduced by Congressman Heath Shuler on May 17, 2007. Small Business Committee Chairwoman Nydia Velázquez was an original cosponsor. The bill was referred to the Committee on Small Business.

The Committee on Small Business held a hearing on May 16, 2007, and heard from the Small Business administration on its views concerning H.R. 2389. The Committee also received testimony from representatives from the Wharton School in affiliation with the Pennsylvania Small Business Development Center, and the Sustainable Energy Coalition who testified in support of the bill.

The Committee on Small Business met in open session on May 23, 2007, and ordered H.R. 2389 reported to the House, with no amendments, by a voice vote.

This bill text was generally incorporated in H.R. 3221, Division A, the New Direction for Energy Independence, National Security, and Consumer Protection Act. On August 4, 2007, H.R. 3221 passed the House by a vote of 241 to 172. Further, the provisions of H.R. 2389 that were incorporated into H.R. 3221 were generally incorporated into the Omnibus energy legislation which was enacted in H.R. 6, and which became Public Law 110–140 on December 19, 2007.

THE SBA WOMEN'S BUSINESS PROGRAMS ACT OF 2007

(H.R. 2397)

To reauthorize the women's entrepreneurial development programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

Summary

The SBA Women's Business Programs Act of 2007, H.R. 2397, amends key sections of the Small Business Act to support the continued growth of women entrepreneurs, especially from underserved communities, including socio-economically disadvantaged

and rural areas. The bill strengthens existing entrepreneurial development programs at the agency to ensure they continue to serve a unique and important role assisting women business owners.

H.R. 2397 supports the growth of women entrepreneurs in two ways: enhancing research conducted on women entrepreneurship issues; and establishing a more targeted approach to funding Women's Business Centers. The bill requires the National Women's Business Council to consult with Congress and conduct at least one study per year on current issues affecting women entrepreneurs. It also mandates that the Council update the Committee on modifications to its plans and programs. A funding forma is established that allocated federal resources to both new and existing Women's Business Centers, which provide outreach and entrepreneurial development assistance through a network of sites located throughout the country. The bill promotes the expansion of these centers into underserved areas by reducing the matchmaking requirement for communities lacking investment and requiring centers to target their programs to clients in these communities.

Legislative history

H.R. 2397 was introduced by Congresswoman Mary Fallin on May 21, 2007. Cosponsors included the Subcommittee on Contracting and Technology, Small Business Committee Chair Bruce Braley and Representative Albert Wynn. The bill was referred to the Committee on Small Business.

The Committee on Small Business held a hearing on May 16, 2007, and heard from the SBA's Acting Assistant Administrator for the Office of Entrepreneurial Development on the Administration's views on the legislation. Additionally, the Committee received testimony from the Pennsylvania Small Business Development Center, the New Mexico Small Business Development Center, and the Association of Women's Business Centers who testified on the merits of the legislation.

The Committee on Small Business met in open session on May 23, 2007, and ordered H.R. 2397 reported to the House with a favorable recommendation by a voice vote.

On June 18, 2007, the House considered H.R. 2397 and passed the bill by a voice vote. On June 19, 2007, the bill was received in the Senate, read twice, and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

No further action was taken on this legislation in the 110th Congress.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION DISASTER LOAN PROGRAM PROVISIONS IN THE FOOD, CONSERVATION, AND ENERGY ACT OF 2008

(H.R. 2419)

Summary

H.R. 2419 establishes two bridge loan programs for private sector lenders. In a catastrophic disaster, the SBA can authorize private lenders to make 180 day loans of up to $150,000 at not more then 1 percent over the prime rate to businesses that are otherwise eligible for a disaster loan. In all disasters, private lenders can make loans of up to $25,000 and receive an SBA guaranty within 36

hours for up to 85 percent of the loan amount. Both loans would be transitioned into a standard SBA disaster loan once it has been made. These bridge loans will get financial assistance to businesses while they await processing or disbursement of their conventional SBA loan or insurance payments.

This bill also creates a program to allow private lenders to make disaster loans after a catastrophic disaster. These loans will carry the same terms and benefits as conventional SBA disaster loans. All lenders would be eligible to make loans to small businesses, but only lenders who are preferred lenders in the 7(a) program could make loans to individuals. The bill also provides the SBA with authority to pay a fee to private lenders to process loans during times when the SBA's processing capabilities are overwhelmed in order to prevent application backlogs and ensure timely approval and disbursement of loan proceeds.

The bill authorizes the SBA to make economic injury disaster loans to businesses located outside the geographic area of a catastrophic disaster, if they suffer economic injury as a direct result of the disaster. The businesses must have suffered identifiable economic injury as a direct result of the disaster, and this program will only be available in periods for which the Administrator has declared eligibility for additional disaster assistance.

The bill raises the maximum amount of an SBA disaster loan from the current level of $1,500,000 to $2,000,000, and raises the maximum amount of unsecured disaster loans from $10,000 to $14,000. It also gives the SBA Administrator the authority to make new disaster loans and refinance existing loans from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita with a four-year deferment period.

The bill adds several requirements to improve the SBA's coordination with FEMA. The agency will also be required to conduct biennial disaster simulation exercises and create a comprehensive disaster response plan for various disaster scenarios. The SBA will be required to improve its communication with the public when disaster assistance is made available. The bill also creates a new position for a high-level disaster planning expert who will operate independently from the Office of Disaster Assistance and will oversee the disaster planning and readiness of the agency. Finally, the bill will ensure that the SBA maintains adequate loan processing staff and reserve cadre.

Legislative history

On April 9, 2008, Chairwoman Velázquez, Ranking Member Chabot, and Representative Chabot were appointed as conferees for consideration of SBA disaster loan program provisions contained in subtitle D of title XI of the Senate amendment to H.R. 2419, the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. The final Conference report contained these provisions, as amended, regarding the SBA's disaster loan program in Subtitle B of Title XII.

On May 14, 2008 the Conference report to H.R. 2419 (H. Rept. 110–627) was agreed to in the House by recorded vote of 318–106 (Roll no. 315).

On May 15, 2008, the Conference report was agreed to in the Senate by Yea-Nay Vote. 81–15. (Record Vote Number: 130). H.R.

2419 was subsequently presented to President on May 20, 2008 and vetoed by the President on May 21, 2008.

On May 21, 2008, H.R. 2419 passed the House over veto, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in the affirmative by a vote of 316–108 (Roll no. 346).

On May 22, 2008, H.R. 2419 passed the Senate over veto by Yea-Nay Vote of 82–13 (Record Vote Number: 140), and became Public Law No: 110–234.

THE SBA TRADE PROGRAMS ACT OF 2007

(H.R. 2992)

To amend the Small Business Act to improve trade programs, and for other purposes.

Summary

H.R. 2992, the SBA Trade Programs Act of 2007, amends key sections of the Small Business Act to enhance the agency's institutional focus on the global pressures and opportunities for small businesses operating in a market without borders. The legislation targets resources for the agency's export assistance programs and establishes a new mandate to help small businesses prepare for competition against increasing foreign competitors in domestic and global markets.

H.R. 2992 modernizes the agency's trade programs through four components. The bill provides for the agency's expanded role integrating small business needs into international trade commitments and national policies. It also mandates that the agency develops and coordinate the implementation of a small-business based trade strategy and a system to track these firms' benefits from the use of Federal trade promotion resources. Trade remedy and dispute assistance tools are developed to prepare these firms against unfair trade practices and to safeguard their patents, trademarks and copyrights in foreign countries. Trade adjustment assistance resources, including technical and financial assistance, are established for small firms dislocated due to global economic trends. Financing and technical assistance resources at the agency are also expanded for eligible small and medium sized exporters.

Legislative history

H.R. 2992 was introduced by Congressman John Hall on July 11, 2007. Original Cosponsors included the Committee Chairwoman Nydia Velázquez, Subcommittee on Contracting and Technology, Small Business Committee Chair Bruce Braley, and Committee Vice Chair Joe Sestak. Other original Cosponsors included Representatives Henry Cuellar, Yvette Clarke, and Daniel Lipinski. The bill was referred to the Committee on Small Business.

The Committee on Small Business held a hearing on July 5, 2007, and heard from the SBA's Associate Administrator for Capital Access at the U.S. Small Business Administration on the Administration's views on the legislation. Additionally, the Committee received testimony from the Small Business Exporters Association of the United States and the Precision Metalforming Association

who testified on the merits of the legislation testified in support of its provisions.

The Committee on Small Business met in open session on July 19, 2007, and ordered H.R. 2992 reported to the House with a favorable recommendation by a voice vote.

On September 4, 2007, the House considered H.R. 2992 and passed the bill by a voice vote. On September 5, 2007, the bill was received in the Senate, read twice, and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

No further action was taken on this legislation in the 110th Congress.

THE MICROLOAN AMENDMENTS MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2007

(H.R. 3020)

To amend the Small Business Act to improve the Microloan program, and for other purposes.

Summary

H.R. 3020, The Microloan Amendments and Modernization Act (MAMA) will encourage participation in the Microloan program by qualified intermediaries (technical assistance providers and lenders) and aspiring entrepreneurs. H.R. 3020 amends the program for the first time in eight years and responds to observations about barriers to participation indicated to the Committee by intermediaries/lenders, business participants and academics who have studied the program. The Small Business Administration (SBA), which operates the program, is directed to help in this effort and to work with the intermediaries to find a way to report the repayment records of borrowers to major credit agencies and expand their capital access options. In addition, the Committee wants to move the Program for Investment in MicroEnterprise (PRIME) into the Small Business Act merging the program's authorization with most of the other programs run by the SBA.

The bill makes changes to the terms that can be offered on loans to allow more flexibility. The current statute requires intermediary lenders to offer only "short-term" loans. However, longer-term loans or revolving credit allowed by the bill would permit micro-business participants to have greater latitude in managing their debt obligations, potentially increasing their profitability. In addition, disabled borrowers will be specifically identified as an intended beneficiary of microloans in the "purpose" section of the statute, in the same manner as current law recognizes women business owners, minority business owners and other deserving groups. Finally, SBA is directed to help ensure that repayment histories of the program's borrowers are duly reported to enhance the credit score of microloan participants and broaden their access to low-cost financing.

H.R. 3020 promotes greater intermediary participation. It modernizes the statutory ceiling on the "average loan size" so more intermediaries can qualify for the most favorable interest rate (2 percent below federal borrowing rate on 5-year Treasury notes) raising it to $10,000. H.R. 3020 sets out the kind of equivalent lending and counseling experience that would allow a well-trained

employee to help a new non-profit participant qualify as an intermediary. In addition, the bill raises the amount of the technical assistance grant that can be used for this "pre-loan" assistance and 3rd party training to 35 percent from its current level of 25 percent. Finally, H.R. 3020 moves the entire PRIME initiative into the Small Business Act and clarifies that the SBA has authority to administer the PRIME program.

Legislative history

H.R. 3020 was introduced by Representative Chabot on July 12, 2007 and that day the full Committee held a legislative hearing on H.R. 3020, the Microloan Amendments and Modernization Act which was attended by the Associate Administrator of the SBA for Capital Access, Dr. Michael Hager, who provided the Administration's views on H.R. 3020. In addition, three witnesses spoke directly to the impact of the legislation on the microloan program. Kristie Darien, the Executive Director of the National Association of the Self Employed; Mr. Kevin Kelly of the Association of Enterprise Organizations; and Dr. Cordero-Guzman of Baruch College, CUNY, who presented the highlights of his recent study that found that micro-lending can be a very valuable tool for starting small businesses.

The Committee on Small Business met in open session on July 19, 2007 to consider H.R. 3020 the Microloan Amendments and Modernization Act and any amendments. The Committee accepted an amendment in the nature of a substitute offered by Chairwoman Velázquez by voice vote. No further amendments were offered. The bill was ordered reported as amended to the House of Representatives by a voice vote. The bill was considered on September 4, 2007 under a suspension of the rules and passed the House by a vote of 385 to 5. On September 5, 2007 H.R. 3020 was received by the Senate, read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

No further action was taken on this legislation in the 110th Congress.

TO PROVIDE FOR AN ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS UNDER THE SMALL BUSINESS ACT AND THE SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958 THROUGH DECEMBER 15, 2007, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

(H.R. 3206)

Summary

H.R. 3206 extended the programs authorized under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through December 15, 2007.

Legislative history

H.R. 3206 was introduced by Chairwoman Nydia Velázquez on July 27, 2007. Original Cosponsors included the Committee Ranking Member Steve Chabot. The bill was referred to the Committee on Small Business.

On July 30, 2007, the House considered H.R. 3206 under suspension of the rules and was passed by voice vote.

On July 31, 2007, H.R. 3206 was received in the Senate and was passed by unanimous consent. On August 8, 2007, the legislation was signed by the President and became Public Law 110–57.

SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT EXPANSION ACT OF 2007

(H.R. 3567)

A bill to update and expand the Small Business Administration's Investment and Surety Bond programs.

Summary

The Small Business Investment Expansion Act of 2007 is aimed at three broad goals. First, the bill updates and streamlines three programs in the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, the Small Business Investment Company (SBIC), New Markets Venture Capital (NMVC) and Surety Bond programs. Second, the bill will leverage a new investment strategy, angel investing, to direct more venture capital toward early stage and startup businesses. Finally, the bill will revise SBA rules that inhibit the free flow of venture capital investment to small businesses.

To streamline the SBIC program, this legislation will simplify the current method of calculating maximum leverage caps in favor of a straightforward maximum leverage cap that will remain workable for years to come. The bill will also revise limitations on aggregate investments to establish limitations that are more consistent with industry accepted portfolio risk management practices. Additional provisions of the bill will increase overall investment in smaller enterprises and will also establish incentives to form SBIC funds focused on investment in minority and women owned businesses.

The New Markets Venture Capital program will also be updated with provisions that emphasize expanding the program and provide additional incentives for investment in small manufacturing companies in low-income areas. The final approval process for conditionally approved NMVC companies will be streamlined by establishing simplified application documents and permitting conditionally approved NMVC companies to receive funding for operational assistance. The operational assistance aspect will also be improved by eliminating the requirement that NMVC companies raise matching commitments prior to final approval and by simplifying the process for operational grant assistance. Finally, appropriations for the NMVC program will authorized in a total amount of $35 million ($30 million to support debentures and $5 million for operational assistance grants), of which not less than one quarter must be used to support NMVC companies that invest primarily in small manufacturers.

The bill will also establish a new Office of Angel Investment within the SBA's Investment Division. This office will be headed by a Director of Angel Investment and will focus on three initiatives to increase equity investment in small businesses.

First, an Angel Investment Program will be established to provide eligible angel groups that have ten or more angel investors with matching financing leverage. This leverage will be used to finance early stage small businesses, with priority in financing going

to angel groups that invest in small businesses controlled by veterans, women, or socially and economically disadvantaged small businesses. This leverage will be repaid to the SBA with a pro rata share of returns from the investment. Appropriations for the purpose of providing leverage to angel groups will be authorized in a total amount of $50 million.

Second, a directive will be established within the Office of Angel Investment to create a Federal Angel Network. This network will be a searchable directory of angel groups available on through the SBA's internet website. Additionally, the directory could be distributed or used by other networks to increase its exposure. The directory will include the names and contact information for angel groups and angel investors and will provide information about the types of investments each group or investor has made. One million dollars will be authorized to be appropriated for the establishment of the angel network.

The Angel Investment Program will also include, a grant initiative to provide eligible state, federal, and nonprofit entities with resources to increase awareness and education about angel investing. As a condition of receiving grant assistance, however, eligible entities must provide 50 percent matching contributions, thus amplifying the benefits of grant assistance. This provision will bring more attention to the benefits of angel investing and attract more angel investors to participate in the program. A total of $4.5 million will be authorized for appropriations to carry out this initiative.

The bill will also address deficiencies in the Surety Bond program. The maximum permissible bond amount will be increased by half to $3 million. The bill will also strengthen surety companies' confidence in the Plan A program by barring the SBA from denying indemnity on Plan A guaranties based upon information that was provided as part of the guaranty application. The SBA will also be required to conduct a study on the program's current funding structure and report its findings to Congress within 180 days of the bill's enactment. The bill will make the Surety Bond program more affordable to small businesses and surety companies by providing the SBA with authority to contribute funds for the purpose of reducing the burden associated with surety and contractor fees on bond guarantees.

Finally, the bill modifies the Small Business Act to exclude venture capital investment in SBA's consideration of whether a firm is small for the purposes of the Act. The provision provides that when calculating the number of employees of a small business concern that has venture capital investment, the SBA will exclude those employees who work for companies affiliated with the venture capital company. The bill requires that the venture capital company comply, as appropriate, with federal registration requirements for investment companies. In addition, the bill prevents a venture capital that is controlled by a large business or a venture capital company with more than 500 employees from being recognized as a venture capital company under this provision.

Legislative history

H.R. 3567 was introduced by Congressman Jason Altmire on September 18, 2007. Original Cosponsors included Representatives Sam Graves and Chairwoman of the Small Business Committee, Nydia Velázquez. The bill was referred to the Committee on Small Business.

The Committee on Small Business held a hearing on September, 6, 2007, and heard from SBA Administrator Preston on the Administration's views on the legislative precursor to H.R. 3567. Additionally, the Committee received testimony from the National Venture Capital Association, the Biotechnology Industry Organization, the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, the National Association of Small Business Investment Companies, the American Insurance Association and the Surety and Fidelity Association of America, and Community Development Venture Capital Alliance, who all testified in support of the proposed legislation.

The Committee on Small Business met in open session on September 25, 2007, and ordered H.R. 3567 reported to the House, with no amendments, by a voice vote.

On September 26, 2007, the House adopted H. Res. 682, providing for consideration of H.R. 3567 under a modified open rule, by a record vote of 222–181. Also on that day, the House considered H.R. 3567 and passed the bill with four amendments, by a record vote of 325 ayes and 72 nays. On September 28, 2007, the bill was received in the Senate, read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

No further action was taken on this legislation in the 110th Congress.

SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS ACT OF 2007

(H.R. 3866)

Summary

H.R. 3866, the Small Business Programs Act of 2007, provides authorization levels for the Small Business Administration's (SBA) programs for fiscal years 2008 and 2009. This includes loan levels for the 7(a), 7(m), and 504 loan programs, as well as for the Small Business Investment Company program. In addition, the legislation provides authorization levels for entrepreneurial programs, including the Small Business Development Center and the Women's Business Center programs. Finally, it provides authorization levels for the PRIME, BusinessLINC, HUBZone, the Office of Veterans Business Development, the Advisory Committee on Veterans Business Affairs extension, and National Women's Business Council.

Legislative history

H.R. 3866 was introduced in the House by Rep. Velázquez on October 17, 2007. Original co-sponsors included Committee Member Ms. Clarke. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Small Business.

On September 27, 2007, the Committee on Small Business held a hearing, and heard from the SBA Deputy Administrator on the agency's views on the legislation. Other witnesses included the As-

sociation for Enterprise Opportunity, the National Association of Development Companies, the Association of Small Business Development Centers, and the Credit Union National Association.

The Committee on Small Business met in open session on October 18, 2007, and ordered H.R. 3866 reported to the House with a favorable recommendation by voice vote. On November 6, 2007, the bill was considered by the House under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. The bill passed the House by voice vote. On November 8, 2007, H.R. 3867 was received in the Senate. On January 22, 2008, the Senate read the legislation twice and referred it to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

No further action has been taken on this legislation in the 110th Congress.

SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTING PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS ACT

(H.R. 3867)

To update and expand the procurement programs of the Small Business Administration.

Summary

H.R. 3867, the Small Business Contracting Program Improvements Act, modifies, updates, and in one case, implements procurement programs offered by the Small Business Administration (SBA). These programs include the procurement program for service-disabled veterans, the women's procurement program, the HUBZone program and the 8(a) program. The bill also corrects a number of inconsistencies in the management of these programs so that they operate similarly. Lastly, the legislation modifies the treatment of franchises by the SBA and provides a sense of Congress with respect to the treatment of small businesses under the General Services Administration's Federal Supply Schedules, among other matters.

The measure expands procurement opportunities for businesses owned and controlled by service disabled veterans by making the procurement program for these companies mandatory rather than discretionary, thus ensuring that these firms are the first choice among small businesses for federal contracts. New penalties are imposed for companies that falsely represent their status as service-disabled veteran-owned. Teeth are added to Executive Order 13360 requiring that the SBA fulfill its obligations under the Order. Additionally, the bill ensures that severely service-disabled veterans have the highest priority for federal contracts.

By imposing a standard of business integrity, applying both prime and subcontracting goals, standardizing the size of contracts eligible, and expanding bid protest authority, the bill ensures that all of the SBA's procurement programs operate in the same manner.

The legislation allows the women's procurement program to be fully implemented upon enactment. By identifying the industries in which women are under-represented, the bill removes the uncertainties that have kept the program from getting up and running.

To ensure that only eligible companies receive contracts, the bill requires verification of a HUBZone firm's status prior to the award

of the business's second contract awarded with the HUBZone preference. The bill also limits construction contracts to within 150 miles of the company's eligible HUBZone and requires an evaluation by the SBA to identify whether eligible areas are being overlooked in the current calculation for identification of HUBZones.

The Small Business Contracting Program Improvements Act also updates the SBA's 8(a) program. It does this by providing an inflationary adjustment to the entry net worth limitation and removes that restriction once a company has been certified. The program's nine-year limitation will be extended by one year and the ten years will be divided between a six-year developmental phase and a four-year transitional phase. The SBA will be required to report on what changes are needed to the program to ensure that companies with less equity in their business than others are able to receive access to contracts. The agency will also be tasked with reporting on an examination of whether more individuals should be presumed to be socially disadvantaged, and on the status of the implementation of legislation designed to streamline state departments of transportation applications for disadvantaged business certification for companies who are already 8(a) program participants.

The legislation also relaxes the affiliation standard for franchises in the temporary employment industry to comport with common industry practices. It provides for a sense of the House that small business-only competitions should be allowed for GSA Federal Supply Schedule vendors. The SBA must conduct a study evaluating whether frivolous bid protests are being used to delay contract performance periods to the detriment of small businesses, and must create a liaison position to interface with the Department of Homeland Security for the purpose of ensuring that small businesses who employ undocumented workers are not able to participate in SBA's contracting programs. Lastly, the bill prohibits SBA employees from purchasing first- or business-class airline accommodations.

Legislative history

H.R. 3867 was introduced in the House by Rep. Velázquez on October 17, 2007. Original co-sponsors included Committee Members Ms. Fallin and Ms. Clarke, as well as Rep. Silvestre Reyes. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Small Business.

On October 4, 2007, the Committee on Small Business held a hearing, and heard from the SBA Administrator on the Administration's views on the legislation. Other witnesses included the American Legion, the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce, and the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and the National Small Business Association who testified in support of the bill's provisions. An attorney in private practice also testified.

The Committee on Small Business met in open session on October 18, 2007, and ordered H.R. 3867 reported to the House with a favorable recommendation by a recorded vote of 21 yeas and 4 nays. On October 30, 2007, the bill was considered by the House under a structured rule. Ten amendments were made in order under the rule. All ten amendments were approved by voice votes. The bill passed the House with a vote of 334 yeas and 80 nays. On November 1, 2007, H.R. 3867 was received in the Senate, read

twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

No further action has been taken on this legislation in the 110th Congress.

TO PROVIDE FOR AN ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS UNDER THE SMALL BUSINESS ACT AND THE SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958 THROUGH MAY 23, 2008, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

(H.R. 4252)

Summary

H.R. 4252 extended the programs authorized under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through May 23, 2008.

Legislative history

H.R. 4252 was introduced by Ranking Member Steve Chabot on December 4, 2007. Original Cosponsors included the Committee Chairwoman Nydia Velázquez. The bill was referred to the Committee on Small Business.

On December 5, 2007, the House considered H.R. 4252 under suspension of the rules and was passed by voice vote.

On December 7, 2007, H.R. 4252 was received in the Senate and was passed by unanimous consent. On December 14, 2007, the legislation was signed by the President and became Public Law 110–136.

MILITARY RESERVIST AND VETERAN SMALL BUSINESS REAUTHORIZATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2007

(H.R. 4253)

A bill to improve and expand small business assistance programs for veterans of the armed forces and military reservists.

Summary

H.R. 4253, the Military Reservist and Veteran Small Business Reauthorization and Opportunity Act of 2007, makes several improvements to the SBA's lending and entrepreneurial development programs to benefit veterans of the U.S. military. The bill increases funding for the SBA's Office of Veterans' Business Development and requires the SBA to increase the number of Veterans Business Outreach Centers throughout the U.S.

The bill establishes an interagency task force consisting of senior level representatives from the SBA as well as from several other Federal agencies and representatives from veteran's service organizations to coordinate the efforts of Federal agencies to improve and expand access to veteran's services and programs. The bill also establishes a National Reservist Enterprise Transition and Sustainability program through which the SBA will provide competitive grant awards to Small Business Development Centers, Women's Business Centers, Veterans Business Outreach Centers, and any other veteran's business assistance program so that they may pro-

vide veteran-owned businesses with management, financing, procurement, technical, and regulatory assistance.

The bill also makes several changes to the SBA's disaster assistance program to simplify and improve the agency's ability to provide military deployment economic injury disaster (MREIDL) loans. The bill increases the maximum loan amount from $1.5 million to $2 million and authorizes the SBA to make MREIDLoans of up to $50 thousand without collateral. The bill also directs the SBA to give priority in consideration to MREIDL loan applications prior to processing, approving, or disbursing other disaster loans.

Finally, H.R. 4253 establishes an Increased Veteran Participation Program to provide veteran-owned small businesses with improved access to the SBA's largest lending program, the 7(a) loan program. Loans made under the Increased Veteran Participation Program would have no borrower guaranty fee, no ongoing annual lender fee, and would provide up to a 90 percent guarantee for veteran-owned small businesses.

Legislative history

H.R. 4253 was introduced by Congressman Jason Altmire on December 4, 2007. Original co-sponsors for H.R. 4253 included Congressman Vern Buchanan (FL–13), Congressman Steve Chabot (OH–1), and Chairwoman of the Small Business Committee, Nydia Velázquez (NY–12). The bill was referred to the Committee on Small Business.

On December 5, 2007, the House considered H.R. 4253 under suspension of the rules (CR H14218–14223). At the conclusion of debate, the yeas and nays were demanded and ordered. On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4253 was passed by a record vote of 407 yeas to 2 nays (Roll no. 1138).

On December 7, 2007, H.R. 4253 was received in the Senate. On December 19, 2007, the Senate struck all after the enacting clause and inserted in lieu S. 1784. This passed the Senate by unanimous consent on the same day. On January 16, 2008, the House agreed to the Senate amendment with an amendment pursuant to H. Res. 921. On January 31, 2008, the Senate agreed to the House amendment to the amendment. On February 14, 2008, the legislation was signed by the President and became Public Law 110–86.

SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY IMPROVEMENT ACT

(H.R. 4458)

To amend chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Regulatory Flexibility Act), to ensure complete analysis of potential impacts on small entities of rules, and for other purposes.

Summary

H.R. 4458 seeks to require federal agencies to fully consider the economic impacts of regulations on small businesses, improve agency reviews of existing rules affecting small firms, and give small businesses a greater voice in the rulemaking process.

One of the biggest loopholes in the Regulatory Flexibility Act is that it does not define what constitutes an "economic impact" on

small businesses. Under current law, agencies are not required to consider indirect economic impacts of rules on small businesses. Agencies are using this loophole to avoid conducting analysis where an economic impact of a rule is reasonably foreseeable on small firms. H.R. 4458 closes this loophole by requiring agencies to consider reasonably foreseeable indirect impacts. The Government Accountability Office has reported that agency compliance with Section 610 of RegFlex has been minimal. Section 610 requires agencies to review existing rules periodically and to consider eliminating unnecessary requirements to reduce the overall regulatory burden on small entities. Poor compliance has been attributed to a lack of clarity in RegFlex. H.R. 4458 clarifies to agencies what rules need to be reviewed and when reviews need to be conducted. In addition, the legislation codifies Executive Order 13272, which requires agencies to notify the Office of Advocacy of proposed rules that may impact small businesses before such rules are published in the Federal Register. Earlier notification will provide the Office of Advocacy with a greater opportunity to assist agencies in RegFlex compliance.

Legislative history

On December 6, 2007, the Committee held a hearing on Legislation to Improve the Regulatory Flexibility Act. The Chief Counsel for Advocacy at the Small Business Administration, Thomas M. Sullivan delivered testimony. Representatives of small businesses discussed the legislation and how it would increase the effectiveness of the Regulatory Flexibility Act. H.R. 4458 was introduced by Mr. Ellsworth on December 12, 2007 and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and, in addition, to the Committee on Small Business. On November 14, the Committee on Small Business ordered the measure reported by a vote of 26 yeas and no nays. No further action has been taken on the legislation.

SBIR/STTR REAUTHORIZATION ACT

(H.R. 5819)

To amend the Small Business Act to improve the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program and the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program, and for other purposes.

Summary

The SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act extends for a period of two years the Federal government's largest small business research and development programs. The legislation modernizes the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program, changing the legislative guidelines and policies in order to update the program in response to the unique challenges facing small research companies and the changing research priorities of Federal agencies.

The Act is aimed at three broad goals. First, the bill seeks to encourage greater participation in SBIR. An increase in the number of small businesses applying for SBIR is critical to the on-going success of the program. Second, the bill permits small companies that are majority-owned by qualifying venture capital firms to participate in the SBIR program. A 2003 ruling by the Small Business

Administration (SBA) has made small firms with large investments from venture capital companies ineligible to participate in the SBIR program. The SBA ruling forces many small businesses to choose between accepting investments from venture capital firms and participating in the Federal government's largest R&D program for small research firms. Third, the bill seeks to encourage and support commercialization initiatives at Federal agencies that administer SBIR programs. Under current law certain Federal agencies have the authority to develop commercialization programs. This bill extends to all agencies the authority to develop programs designed to support the commercialization of SBIR-funded research.

Additionally, the bill seeks to codify in statute the programmatic flexibility that Federal agencies need in order to administer SBIR awards in a manner that is most consistent with the agency's specific mission. The SBIR policy directive issued by the SBA has provided a great deal of autonomy to the Federal agencies, the bill codifies agency autonomy with respect to administering their SBIR programs. Along with granting to Federal agencies a great degree of autonomy, the bill also requires Federal agencies to establish more concrete goals and objectives with respect to their SBIR programs and directs the agencies to provide Congress with more regular reports.

Legislative history

In the 110th Congress, the Committee on Small Business convened three hearings on the reauthorization of the SBIR program. On January 29, 2008, the House Committee on Small Business convened a hearing entitled "SBIR: America's Technology Development Incubator." The hearing explored the numerous contributions that the SBIR program makes to national security priorities, economic development objectives and America's international economic competitiveness. On February 13, 2008 the House Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight convened a hearing entitled "SBIR: Advancing Medical Innovations." The Subcommittee hearing examined the impact of the SBIR program on the development of innovative medical technologies, therapies and products. On March 13, 2008 the Committee on Small Business held a hearing to review a Committee Print of proposed legislation that would reauthorize and modernize the SBIR program. The Committee on Small Business met in open session on April 17, 2008 and ordered H.R. 5819 reported, as amended, to the House by a recorded vote. Only one amendment, offered by Ms. Velázquez, was offered at the markup. That amendment was adopted by voice vote. The bill was ordered reported by a vote of 20–0.

On April 23, 2008, the bill was considered by the House under a structured rule. Seventeen were made in order under the rule. Twelve amendments were approved by voice vote, three amendments were agreed to by recorded vote, and two amendments were withdrawn. The bill passed the House with a vote of 368 yeas and 43 nays. On April 24, 2008, H.R. 5819 was received in the Senate, read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

No further action has been taken on this legislation in the 110th Congress.

SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2008

(H.R. 7175)

To amend the Small Business Act to improve the section 7(a) lending program, and for other purposes.

Summary

H.R. 7175, the Small Business Financing Improvements Act of 2008, updates and streamlines the SBA's two largest small business finance programs, the 7(a) and 504 (also known as the Certified Development Company) programs, as well as the Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) program. The bill improves the efficiency of the secondary market for small commercial loans by permitting the pooling of such loans based on a weighted average interest of the underlying loans in the pool. In addition, the bill establishes an alternative size standard for the 7(a) program. This provision will provide a simplified standard for determining small business loan eligibility, encouraging greater lender participation in the 7(a) program.

The Small Business Lending Improvements Act of 2007 also modernizes and improves the 504, Certified Development Company, program by making an array of technical changes to the program and addressing two of the program's most evident problems. The bill improves the program's ability to liquidate defaulted loans by permitting CDCs to either foreclose and liquidate defaulted loans or to contract with a qualified third party to do so. The bill enhances the ties between CDCs and the communities that they serve by requiring CDCs to include locals on the board of directors. The bill also establishes a uniform leasing policy, permits closing costs to be included in loan amounts, and provides for limited refinancing of existing debt.

Finally, H.R. 7175 makes two important changes to the SBIC program. The bill simplifies the SBIC leverage cap rules to a single formula, regardless of the amount of private capital that the SBIC has, with a maximum leverage cap of $150 million. This will make "transition" leverage available for SBIC companies under common control so that successful SBICs may operate a second or third fund while still maintaining safeguards against increased risk to the SBA and a maximum leverage cap for SBICs under common control.

In addition, the legislation revises the current limit on the amount that can be invested in any one portfolio company to standards that are more consistent with industry accepted portfolio risk management practices. This change would apply the portfolio management rule ("no more than 10 percent should be invested in any one company") that is the accepted norm in the non-SBIC venture capital world and would ensure that SBIC management teams had both the financial and time resources required to help their portfolio companies achieve their growth goals.

Legislative history

H.R. 7175 was introduced by Chairwoman Nydia Velázquez on September 27, 2008. Original Cosponsors included the Committee Ranking Member Steve Chabot and Committee Members Yvette Clarke, Henry Cuellar, and David Davis. The bill was referred to the Committee on Small Business.

On September 27, 2008, the House considered H.R. 7175 under suspension of the rules. On September 29, 2008, the House passed H.R. 7175 by a recorded vote of 374 ayes and 6 nays. On September 30, 2008, the bill was received in the Senate.

No further action was taken on this legislation in the 110th Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE PLUMBING INDUSTRY AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF "NATIONAL PLUMBING INDUSTRY WEEK"

(H. RES. 1082)

Summary

H. Res. 1082 recognizes the importance of the plumbing industry and supports the goals and ideals of "National Plumbing Industry Week."

Legislative history

H. Res. 1082 was introduced by Chairwoman Nydia Velázquez on April 8, 2008. Original Cosponsors included the Committee Ranking Member Steve Chabot. The bill was referred to the Committee on Small Business.

On April 9, 2008, the House considered H. Res. 1082 under suspension of the rules and it passed by voice vote.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF THE FOUNDING OF MACY'S, INC., AS AN AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURIAL SUCCESS STORY AND THE ROLE MACY'S, INC., PLAYS IN SUPPORTING AMERICA'S SMALL BUSINESSES

(H. RES. 1473)

Summary

H. Res. 1473 recognizes the 150th anniversary year of the founding of Macy's, Inc., as an American entrepreneurial success story and the role Macy's, Inc., plays in supporting America's small businesses and vendors, including those that are minority and women owned; celebrating the vision, innovativeness, and ingenuity of all of our Nation's small businesses that aspire to grow and prosper as Macy's, Inc., has over its 150-year history; and congratulating Macy's, Inc., as an American entrepreneurial success story.

Legislative history

H. Res. 1473 was introduced by Ranking Member Steve Chabot on September 22, 2008. Original Cosponsors included the Committee Chairwoman Nydia Velázquez. The bill was referred to the Committee on Small Business.

On September 23, 2008, the House considered H. Res. 1473 under suspension of the rules and it passed by voice vote.

FULL COMMITTEE

OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

OVERSIGHT OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S ANNUAL BUDGET PROPOSALS

On February 8, 2007 the Committee on Small Business held a hearing of the SBA's proposed budget for FY 2008. This hearing included a review of the administration's funding requests as well as their key policy initiatives for the fiscal year. The Committee heard testimony from SBA Administrator Steven Preston.

On February 7, 2008 the Committee on Small Business held a hearing of the SBA's proposed budget for FY 2009. This hearing included a review of the administration's funding requests as well as their key policy initiatives for the fiscal year. The Committee heard testimony from SBA Administrator Steven Preston.

OVERSIGHT OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S ACCESS TO CAPITAL PROGRAMS

On March 1, 2007, the Committee on Small Business held an oversight hearing entitled, "Increasing Access to Capital for Our Nation's Small Businesses." The purpose of the hearing was to examine the challenges faced by entrepreneurs in securing affordable financing. The Committee received testimony from the Deputy Associate Administrator for Capital Access at the Small Business Administration, who provided testimony on the current state of the SBA's 7(a) and Certified Development Company loan programs. The committee also received testimony from the Independent Community Bankers of America, the National Association of Government Guaranteed Lenders, the National Small Business Association, and from a small business owner who discussed ongoing deficiencies in the 7(a) and Certified Development Company loan programs.

OVERSIGHT OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S INVESTMENT PROGRAMS

On June 21, 2007, the Committee on Small Business held an oversight hearing entitled, "Increasing Investment in Our Nation's Small Businesses." The purpose of the hearing was to examine the challenges that small business face in seeking capital investment in the private markets. The Committee received testimony from the Associate Administrator for Capital Access at the Small Business Administration. The Committee also received testimony from a Harvard scholar of investment banking and small business capital formation, the Angel Capital Association, and the National Association of Small Business Investment Companies.

OVERSIGHT OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

On February 14, 2007, the Committee held a hearing entitled "The Small Business Administration's Response to the 2005 Gulf Coast Hurricanes." That hearing explored deficiencies in the Small Business Administration's response to the 2005 Gulf Coast Hurricanes and the concurrent Government Accountability Office report that examined the root causes of those problems. The Committee received testimony from the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, the Honorable Steven C. Preston. The Committee also received testimony from the Honorable Charlie Melancon (LA–3) the Honorable Richard Baker (LA–6) who testified on the ongoing deficiencies in the SBA's response to small businesses and homeowners affected by the 2005 Gulf Coast Hurricanes. The Committee also received testimony from William Shear, the Director of Financial Markets and Community Investment at the Government Accountability Office, who presented the results of a concurrently released GAO report entitled "Response to the Gulf Coast Hurricanes Highlights Need for Enhanced Disaster Preparedness," which recommended that SBA take several steps to improve its disaster preparedness. The Committee also received testimony from the Secretary of Economic Development for the state of Louisiana, the Director for the Governor's Office of Recovery and Renewal for the state of Mississippi, the American Bankers Association and two small business owners who encountered numerous problems in seeking SBA assistance following the 2005 Gulf Coast Hurricanes.

OVERSIGHT OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S CONTRACTING PROGRAMS

On September 19, 2007 the Committee on Small Business held a hearing on the effectiveness of the SBA's Contracting Programs and the challenges they face. The SBA indicated they supported the programs but acknowledged some difficulty in ensuring that the programs were delivered to appropriate parties, a problem that had been reported from a number of sources including the General Accountability Office and the SBA's Inspector General. The SBA was unable to specify a date when the Women's Procurement Program would finally be implemented nearly seven years after enactment. The non-government witnesses advocated for modernizing the 8(a) program, particularly the net worth limitation; urged the committee to take action to increase the participation in contract assistance programs by service-disabled, veteran owned firms; addressed the administration's failure thus far to implement the Women's Procurement program; pointed out the importance of specific procurement programs, and raised concern that government contracting is becoming burdensome and unwieldy.

On January 16, 2008 the Committee on Small Business held a hearing to examine the SBA's implementation of the Women's Procurement Program. The SBA had issued a proposed regulation to administer the program and the Committee heard testimony on its adequacy and appropriateness given Congressional intent in creating the program. The first panel was comprised of the Adminis-

trator of the SBA and an official from the Department of Justice. The second panel was comprised of women-owned small businesses, a legal scholar, and a law practitioner.

IMMIGRATION POLICY

The full committee held a hearing on Thursday, May 10, 2007 at 10:00 a.m., entitled: "Immigration Policies and there Impact on Small Business". This hearing consisted of two main panels: Panel 1—The Honorable Luis V. Gutierrez, Member of Congress. Panel 2—Mr. Benjamin E. Johnson, Director, American Immigration Law Foundation; Mr. Craig Silvertooth, Director of Federal Affairs, National Roofing Contractors Association; Ms. Maureen Torrey, Torrey Farms, Inc.; Mr. Ralph J. Folz, CEO, Molecular; Mr. Robert Rector, Ph.D., Senior Research Fellow, Heritage Foundation; and Mr. Mark S. Krikorian, Executive Director, Center for Immigration Studies. The committee heard testimony from industry experts on their immigration concerns and address issues including labor shortages, verification requirements, and the current visa system. Representatives from the agriculture, technology, and construction industries discussed the challenges facing their industries related to immigration.

FAMILY FARMS AND RURAL SMALL BUSINESSES

On Thursday, June 7, 2007, at 10:00 a.m., the full committee hearing entitled: "Family Farmer and Rural Small Business Priorities for 2007 Farm Bill". Key agriculture groups testifying include: The Honorable Glenn English, CEO, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA); Tom Buis, President, National Farmers Union (NFU); Mike Noonan, President, Oregon Wheat Growers League, on behalf of National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG); and Mark Schwiebert, Chairman, Public Policy Action Team, National Corn Growers Association (NCGA). The committee examined policies that assist small farmers and businesses with successfully competing in the domestic and global agricultural markets. Shaping agriculture policy determines the productivity of farmers, dictates the future of small businesses, and influence the outcome of the rural economy.

On Thursday, May 1, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., the full committee held a hearing entitled: "Rail Transportation Access for Small Businesses and Family Farmers". The Committee heard from experts from the renewable fuels industry including Ms. Nelle P. Hotchkiss, SVP of Corporate Relations, North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation/National Rural Electric Cooperative Association; Mr. David Cleavinger, President, National Association of Wheat Growers; Dr. Kendell Keith, President, National Grain and Feed Association; and Mr. Dan Weber, Chairman, Agriculture Retailers Association. Small businesses and farmers in rural America depend on reliable transportation systems to move their goods and products to and from the marketplace. Of particular importance is their dependence upon rail transportation. Family farmers and small businesses have recently raised issues of affordability and access to rail shipping as a viable mode of transportation. The Committee

learned about the importance rail transportation, and how the issues will impact family farmers, and small businesses alike. Groups have complained about the lack of reliable rail service coupled with high rates they pay in many regions of the country. The Committee was able to listen to testimony from small businesses, farmers who ship grain, renewable fuels producers, in addition to rail related groups. On the advent of unprecedented crop production, and renewable production, rail is becoming an even more important transportation resource.

GREEN BUILDING DEVELOPMENT

On Wednesday, July 11, 2007, at 10:00 a.m., the Committee held a two panel hearing entitled: "Small Businesses at the Forefront of the Green Revolution: What More Needs to Be Done to Keep Them Here?" The panelists included: Panel 1—The Honorable Marty Blum, Mayor, Santa Barbara, CA; and The Honorable Adrian Fenty, Mayor, Washington, DC. Panel 2—Julius Genachowski, Cofounder, New Resource Bank; Bob Jones, President, Robert R. Jones Homes, National Association of Home Builders (NAHB); Susan Maxman, Owner, Susan Maxman & Partners, Architects, American Institute of Architects (AIA); Mary Beth McGrew, Director, University Architect Campus Building Division University of Cincinnati; and Danny Seo, Environmental Lifestyle Expert, Author of Simply Green. The hearing examined how small firms are playing a vital role in developing materials, and building "green" facilities in an ever changing global setting. These facilities and initiatives are designed to improve energy efficiency and use environmentally friendly production processes during building construction. The panelists discussed how small ventures are more attuned to combating global climate change by leading the charge to become more energy efficient and environmentally sensitive.

On Thursday, July 10, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. the Committee held a full committee hearing entitled: "The Role of Green Technologies in Spurring Economic Growth." Small businesses play a vital role in producing green products and providing green services, moving our nation away from foreign sources of petroleum. As a result, of their work, today's small firms have become more attuned to combating global climate change. As small businesses become more energy efficient and develop new technologies that are environmental friendly, they also are changing our workforce, by providing new "green collar" jobs. As our world continues changing, it is the small businesses that are creative and innovative; resulting in new green jobs. It is the American small business that is creating new these new job opportunities that making positive contributions to our economy as we adjust to global change. The committee heard testimony from: Mr. Randy Rema, President, Reese Electric Inc., North Bend, OR, on Behalf of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA); Mr. Ellis Guiles, Director of Sales & Marketing, TAG Mechanical Systems, Inc., Syracuse, New York, on Behalf of the Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA); Mr. Gregory Wetstone, Senior Director of Government and Public Affairs, American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) in Washington, DC; Mr.

James Resor, Chief Financial Officer, groSolar in White River Junction, VT, on Behalf of the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) ; Ms. Andrea Lucke, Vice President of Sales and Design, Robert Lucke Homes, Cincinnati, OH 45249, on Behalf of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB); Mr. Kevin Tindall, Owner, Tindall & Ranson Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc., Princeton, NJ, on Behalf of National Association of Plumbing-Heating-Cooling-Contractors (NAPHCC).

ENERGY POLICY

On Thursday, May 3, 2007, at 10:00 a.m., the full committee held a hearing entitled: "The Impact of Renewable Energy Production in Rural America". The committee heard from experts from the renewable fuels industry such as: Mr. Bob Dineen, President and CEO, Renewable Fuels Association (RFA); Mr. Joe Jobe, Executive Director, National Biodiesel Board (NBB); Mr. John Urbanchuk, Economist, LECG; and Mr. Leon Graves, Member, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives. This hearing focused on the wide range of renewable fuels issues dealing with consumption and production. The hearing provided for a discussion about current biofuels programs and future plans for the industry. The committee listened to key representatives on the growth and expansion taking place in rural America. The committee also heard about growth opportunities for family farmers and small businesses through promising newer technologies for renewable fuels production.

The Committee held a field hearing chaired by committee member Representative Shuler on August 31, 2007, in Johnson City, Tennessee. The hearing was entitled: "The Cost and Availability of Energy and the Effect on Small Business". The Committee discussed the importance of energy to small businesses as energy consumers, and talk about how increasing costs are cutting into profit margins. Panelists included distinguished guests such as: Dr. Kelly Tiller, Assistant Professor, Agricultural Policy Analysis Center, The University of Tennessee; Mr. Jim Keiffer, Senior Vice President of Marketing, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA); Dr. Frances Lamberts, Community Activist; Mr. Larry Elkins, General Manager, Holston Electric Cooperative; Mr. Robert White, Chief Public Relations Officer, Johnson City Power Board; Mr. John Hutchinson, Vice President—Finance, Powell Construction; and Mr. Stanley Snowden, President, Seven Wheels Trucking, Inc.

On October 17, 2007, the Committee convened a hearing entitled: "Small Business Energy Bill Priorities". The Committee examined policies that assist small businesses enabling them to successfully compete in the domestic and global marketplace. Shaping energy policy determines the productivity dictates the future of small businesses, and influences the outcome of the economy. Panelists included: Mr. Frank Thompson, Owner, Sweetwater Builders, on behalf of the National Association of Home Builders; Mr. Mitchell Cropp, President, Cropp-Metcalfe Air Conditioning-Heating-Security, on behalf of the Air Conditioning Contractors of America and The Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Association; Mr. Miguel

A. Rodriguez, Principal, Rodriguez Architects, Inc., on behalf of the American Institute of Architects (AIA); and Mr. Lee Fuller, Vice President for Government Relations, Independent Petroleum Association of America.

AIR TRANSPORTATION AND SMALL BUSINESS

On June 26, 2008, the Committee held a hearing entitled "Grounded: How the Air Transportation Crisis is Hurting Entrepreneurs and the Economy." The Committee heard testimony from the travel industry, air carriers and business travelers. Witnesses discussed how fare increases and flight delays are impacting travelers, airlines and small firms in the travel and tourism industry.

FOOD PRICES AND SMALL BUSINESS

On Thursday May 15, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. the House Small Business Committee held a full committee hearing entitled: "Food Prices and Small Businesses." National economic concerns over inflation and food prices at the market are impacting small businesses and agriculture alike. Increasing food prices have led some countries to reduce exports and others to try to build up stocks. This had placed pressure points on the market by driving prices further upward. Food price increases have impacted all sectors of the economy but has done so in different ways. This hearing will be a forum to identify impacts while also providing an opportunity to discuss policy solutions.

Those testifying at this hearing include Mr. Tom Buis, President, National Farmers Union; Mr. Geoff Tracy, with Chef Goeff's, on behalf of the National Restaurant Association; Mr. Bob Dinneen, President and CEO, Renewable Fuels Association; Mr. Daryl Thomas, Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing on behalf of the Snack Food Association and the Grocery Manufacturers Association; and Mr. Frank D. Formica, on behalf of the American Bakers Association.

THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY

On November 7, 2007, the Committee held a hearing entitled, "The State of the Small Business Economy." The Committee received testimony from Governor Frederick Mishkin of the Federal Reserve Board on the state of the small business economy as a leading indicator of economic conditions in the U.S. The report coincided with the release of the 2007 Report to Congress on the Availability of Credit to Small Businesses, a report that was mandated by the Economic Growth and Regulatory Paperwork Reduction Act of 1996.

On April 24, 2008, the House Committee on Small Business held a hearing entitled "The Role of Small Business in Stimulating the Economy." The hearing examined the current state of the U.S. economy and the role that small businesses will play in spurring new growth and recovery. In addition, the Committee will hear testimony regarding trends in entrepreneurship, as well as obstacles facing startups during this challenging economic climate. The hear-

ing will consist of one panel, which will include representatives from a range of industry sectors.

On October 28, 2008, the Committee held a hearing entitled, "Creating Opportunities for Small Businesses in an Economic Recovery." This hearing focused on the impact of the financial crisis and economic downturn on small firms, including barriers they are facing in securing capital and credit. The Committee received testimony from the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce, the American Bankers Association, the Association of Equipment Manufacturers, and the manufacturing sectors regarding challenges related to the financial and economic crisis.

On November 20, 2008, the Committee held a hearing entitled, "Review of Recent Federal Efforts to Improve Credit Conditions for Small Businesses." The hearing examined the government's response to the financial markets crisis and the slowing economy. The Committee reviewed the establishment of the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) at the U.S. Department of Treasury and the creation of several lending facilities at the Federal Reserve. The Federal Reserve Board of Governors and the U.S. Department of Treasury testified at the hearing.

ACCESS TO CAPITAL

The House Committee on Small Business held a field hearing to examine the effects of New Market Tax Credits, the SBIC and 504 programs, and their role in revitalizing urban communities. The hearing took place on Wednesday, April 11, 2007 at 10:00 a.m., at the Avondale Pride Center: 3520 Burnet Avenue, Cincinnati, OH, 45229. This hearing focused on the New Markets Tax Credit program and how it can be improved to meet the needs of local communities. The hearing examined the program's performance to date, a report on the program by the GAO, as well as testimony from private investors and community development enterprise (CDE). The panel of witnesses included program stakeholders testified on the program's structure, the benefits to the local community, and recommendations for its improvement.

On April 3, 2008, the Committee held a hearing to explore the role that credit cards play in providing small businesses with access to capital. Specifically, the Committee explored trends surrounding recent growth in credit card lending to small businesses and examined the specific advantages and disadvantages that credit cards provide to entrepreneurs, particularly against the backdrop of prevailing economic conditions and the state of small business lending. The Committee received testimony from a small entrepreneur that had benefited significantly from credit card use, an individual testifying on behalf of the Independent Community Bankers of America, an individual testifying on behalf of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions, and two professional scholars who have performed significant research on the issue of small business credit card usage.

SARBANES-OXLEY AND SMALL COMPANIES

On June 5, 2007, the House Committee on Small Business convened a hearing entitled "Sarbanes-Oxley Section 404: Will the SEC and PCAOB's New Standards Lower Compliance Costs for Small Companies?" The Committee heard testimony from The Honorable Christopher Cox, Chairman, United States Securities and Exchange Commission, Chairman Mark W. Olson, Chairman, Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, The Honorable James C. Greenwood, President and CEO, Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), Ms. Diane Casey-Landry, President and CEO, America's Community Bankers, Mr. Hal S. Scott, Professor, Harvard University, Mark G. Heesen, President, National Venture Capital Association, Mr. David Hirschmann, Senior Vice President, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. Richard G. Schmalzl, Partner, Graydon, Head and Ritchey LLC. The hearing examined the new regulations issued by the Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) in light of the committee's ongoing concern that Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (SOX 404) places an undue regulatory burden on small firms.

On December 12, 2007, the House Committee on Small Business convened a hearing entitled "Sarbanes-Oxley Section 404: New Evidence on the Costs for Small Businesses". The Committee heard testimony from The Honorable Christopher Cox, Chairman United States Securities and Exchange Commission, Michael J. Ryan, Executive Director and Senior Vice President, Center for Capital Markets Competitiveness, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Harvey Grossblatt, CEO and President, Universal Security Instruments, Bill Loving, CEO, Pendleton Community Bank, Thomas Brandt, CFO, TeleCommunication Systems and Shannon Greene, CFO, Tandy Leather Factory. The hearing examined recently released data on SOX 404 compliance costs being incurred by small companies and assesses the appropriateness of the SEC's compliance timeline for small businesses.

LIABILITY REFORM AND SMALL BUSINESS

On May 17, 2007, the Committee held a hearing entitled "Liability Reform and Small Business." The Committee heard testimony from advocacy groups and trade associations on issues pertaining to small businesses and civil litigation, including related legislative proposals. Witnesses included the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Institute for Legal Reform, National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association, The Association for Manufacturing Technology, the National Federation of Independent Businesses.

SMALL BUSINESS COMPETITION POLICY: ARE MARKETS OPEN FOR ENTREPRENEURS?

On September 25, 2008, the Committee held a hearing entitled "Small Business Competition Policy: Are Markets Open for Entrepreneurs?" The Committee heard testimony from the Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, William E. Kovacic. Organizations representing physicians, medical device manufacturers and inde-

pendent automobile repair stations delivered testimony. Witnesses discussed current competition issues facing entrepreneurs and whether federal antitrust regulators are doing enough to maintain competition in the marketplace.

MEDICAID DRUG REIMBURSEMENT

On July 18, 2007, the Committee held a hearing entitled "Medicaid Drug Reimbursements: Are Cuts Bad Medicine for Small Businesses and Beneficiaries?" The Committee met to discuss the final rule promulgated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services which sets the average manufacturer price as the basis for certain prescription drug reimbursements to pharmacies (71 Fed. Reg. 77174). The hearing examined the impacts of the rule on small business retail pharmacies and Medicaid beneficiaries and whether the new reimbursement formula accurately reflected drug acquisition costs. The Director of the Center for Medicaid and State Operations, Dennis Smith, delivered testimony. Representatives from independent community pharmacies, chain drug stores and supermarkets testified as to how the rule impacts their businesses and affects their ability to continue participating in Medicaid. The Committee examined whether the agency adequately complied with the requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act in promulgating the rule.

REGULATORY BURDEN

On November 15, 2007, the Committee held a hearing entitled Reducing the Regulatory Burden on Small Business: Improving the Regulatory Flexibility Act. The Committee heard testimony from small business representatives of the transportation, health care and other industries as well as from an administrative law expert. Witnesses discussed the federal regulatory burden on small businesses and how Congress can act to reduce it. Witnesses delivered testimony regarding the regulatory burdens imposed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Aviation Administration. The Committee examined ways to improve the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

On February 28, 2008, the Committee held a hearing entitled "Improving the Paperwork Reduction Act for Small Businesses." The Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget, Susan E. Dudley, delivered testimony. Representatives of small firms testified as well as an administrative law expert. Witnesses discussed the federal paperwork burden on small firms. The hearing examined the growing federal paperwork burdens on small businesses and how Congress can act to reduce it by improving the Paperwork Reduction Act.

PUBLIC LANDS AND SMALL BUSINESSES

On April 17, 2008, the Committee held a hearing entitled "Maintaining Public Lands for Hunting, Fishing, Ranching and Small Businesses." The Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Man-

agement at the Department of the Interior, C. Stephen Allred, delivered testimony. The Committee heard testimony from hunting and fishing guides, a cattle rancher and a business providing services to energy firms. Witnesses discussed how the Interior Department is meeting the needs of small businesses dependent on the use of public lands for hunting, fishing, grazing and outdoor recreation.

RESPA AND SMALL BUSINESS

On May 22, 2008, the Committee held a hearing entitled "RESPA and its Impact on Small Business." The Director of the Office of RESPA and Interstate Land Sales at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Ivy Jackson, delivered testimony. Representatives of the real estate industry testified as well as a consumer advocate. Witnesses discussed the burdens associated with the proposed rule issued by HUD pursuant to the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act. The Committee examined how the new paperwork required by the rule would impact consumers and the real estate industry.

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

On March 7, 2007, the House Committee on Small Business convened a hearing entitled "Advancing the Innovation Agenda: The Perspective of the Technology and Telecommunications Industry." The Committee heard testimony from Mr. William J. Archey, President and CEO, AeA, Mr. Philip J. Bond, President and CEO, Information Technology Association of America (ITAA), Mr. Grant Seiffert, President, Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), Mr. David Zesiger, Senior Vice President, Regulatory Policy and External Affairs, Embarq, Mr. Walter B. McCormick, Jr., President and CEO, United States Telecommunications Association (USTelecom), Ms. Shirley Bloomfield, Vice President, Government Affairs and Association Services for the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA), Mr. Richard Cimerman, Vice President, State Telecommunications Policy, National Cable and Telecommunications Association (NCTA), and Mr. Earl Comstock, President and CEO, COMPTEL. The hearing examined the technology and telecommunication industries' policy priorities for the 110th Congress and considered how the industries' policy priorities might impact small innovative companies.

On March 29, 2007, the House Committee on Small Business convened a hearing entitled "The Impact of Proposed Patent Reform Legislation on Small Businesses." The Committee heard testimony from Commissioner John J. Doll, Commissioner for Patents, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Mr. Mitchell Gross, Chairman and CEO, Mobius Management Systems, Mr. Bryan Lord, Vice President and General Counsel, AmberWave Systems Corporation, Ms. Emily Ward, Associate General Counsel for Patents, eBay, Inc, Mr. John Neis, Managing Director of Venture Investors LLC, Mr. John R. Thomas, Professor, Georgetown University, and Mr. Kevin Kirsch, Partner, Taft, Stettinius & Hollister

LLP. The hearing examined the cost and benefits of reforming the U.S. patent system and the potential impact on small businesses.

On June 28, 2007, the House Committee on Small Business convened a hearing entitled the "Assessing the Impact of the Copyright Royalty Board Decision to Increase Royalty Rates on Recording Artists and Webcasters." The Committee heard testimony from Mr. Bryan Miller, General Manager for WOXY.com, Mr. Tom Sullivan, Founder, Tommy Boy Records, Joey Allcorn, Recording Artist, Ms. Cathy Fink, Recording Artist, Mr. Kieran Kelly, Co-Owner, Stunning Models on Display Records, Mr. Thomas Lee, President, American Federation of Musicians, Mr. Richard Eiswerth, President, General Manager and CEO, Cincinnati Public Radio, Inc., and the Honorable Jay Inslee, Member of Congress. The hearing examined a recent decision by the Copyright Royalty Board (CRB) that increased substantially the royalty rates that Internet broadcasters or "webcasters" pay to compensate copyright owners for digital transmissions of their sound recordings.

On October 10, 2007, the House Committee on Small Business convened a hearing entitled "The Impact of the 700 Megahertz Wireless Spectrum Auction on Small Business." The Committee heard testimony from The Honorable Kevin J. Martin, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission, Mr. E. Kelly Bond, CEO and President, Public Service Communications, Ms. Shelley Spenser, President, Wirefree Partners, Mr. Chris Guttman-McCabe, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, CTIA, Mr. Christopher Libertelli, Senior Director, Government and Regulatory Affairs, Skype, and Mr. Jeffery Black, Founder, Chairman and Chief Strategy Officer, TalkPlus. The hearing examined the potential impact of the upcoming wireless spectrum auction's rules on entrepreneurs, small wireless communications providers and small businesses that are without access to reliable and affordable access to broadband services.

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

On March 14, 2007, the Committee on Small Business held a hearing entitled "Challenges and Solutions to Health Insurance Coverage for Small Businesses." The hearing focused on barriers to coverage for small businesses ranging from their tax treatment under the Code to the structure of the health insurance market. Witnesses Karen Ignagni, President and CEO of America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP), Todd Stottlemyer, President and CEO of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), Adam D. Cockey, Jr., Senior Vice President of Prudential Carruthers Realtors and Immediate Past Chair of the National Association of Realtors (NAR) Business Issues Committee, and Gail Wilensky, a Leading Economist and former Administrator for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), testified about the barriers faced by small firms and possible solutions to bring down costs and increase coverage.

On May 24, 2007, the Committee on Small Business held a hearing entitled "Expanding Small Business Health Insurance Cov-

erage Using the Private Reinsurance Market." The hearing focused on how reinsurance has been used by businesses to manage their risk of financial loss. Witnesses testified on alternative reinsurance arrangements that have been used by employers to control high risk and catastrophic health care costs associated with medical benefit plans. Testimony was also provided describing the current landscape of the reinsurance market and barriers to the adoption of reinsurance by small business in the health care arena. Witnesses included Len Crouse, Vermont Deputy Commissioner, Captive Division, Patrick L. Collins, Chairperson of the American Academy of Actuaries' Medical Reinsurance Work Group, as well as Vice Chairperson of the Academy's Federal Health Committee (AAA), Janet Trautwein, Executive Vice President & CEO, National Association of Health Underwriters (NAHU), and Leonard C. Brevik, Executive Vice President and CEO of the National Association of Professional Insurance Agents (PIA).

On October 25, 2007, the Committee held a hearing entitled "Health Insurer Consolidation—The Impact on Small Business." The hearing examined the effects of consolidation on the cost of health insurance and the impact on physicians and other health care providers in terms of reimbursements and administrative burdens. Representatives of small businesses, physicians and consumers testified as to the impacts of increased consolidation of health insurers on competition in health care.

On January 23, 2008, the Committee on Small Business held a hearing entitled "Limited Options for Small Businesses in the Small Group Market." The hearing examined the challenges small businesses face providing health insurance coverage to their workers. Witnesses discussed their experiences purchasing health insurance in the small group market citing challenges specific to their industry, region of the country, and business size. Witnesses also offered their opinions about possible solutions to the problems small businesses face in the marketplace. Testimony was provided by Don Teske on behalf of the National Farmers Union, Scott Eckstein on behalf of the National Association of Home Builders, Cathey Sandman on behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business, Richard S. Lee on behalf of the Society of American Florists, Lee David Groza on behalf American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and R. Stephen Eby, M.D., on behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

On February 26, 2008, the Committee on Small Business held a hearing entitled "State Strategies to Expand Health Insurance Coverage for Small Businesses"—Featuring Testimony on Health Care Reform in Minnesota and Pennsylvania from Governors Pawlenty and Rendell. The hearing examined the question of State health reform and how it may impact the small business community. The principle focus of the hearing was to assess whether State reform efforts will prove successful, and how the Federal government can best assist States in their efforts to promote coverage.

On September 18, 2008, the Committee on Small Business held a hearing entitled: "Making Health Care Reform Work for Small Business." Testimony was heard from a wide range of witnesses.

COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR CLINICAL LAB SERVICES

On July 25, 2007, the Committee on Small Business held a hearing entitled "Competitive Bidding for Clinical Lab Services: Where's It Heading and What Small Businesses Can Expect?" The hearing examined a competitive bidding demonstration program developed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to reimburse clinical lab providers for Medicare services. Testimony focused on how the program would impact small labs and their ability to operate and continue offering services. Witnesses included Timothy P. Love, Director for the Office of Research, Development and Information, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; Dr. Ronald Weiss, M.D., President and C.O.O., ARUP Laboratories, and American Clinical Laboratory Association Board Chairman; Tod Schild, Senior Vice President, Shiel Medical Laboratories; Thomas S. Bejgrowicz, M.S., L.N.H.A., Client Account Manager, Aculabs; and Mary Jo Bonifas, Manager of Laboratory Services and United Clinical Laboratories.

MEDICARE PHYSICIAN FEE CUTS AND SMALL BUSINESS

On Thursday, May 8, 2008, the Committee held a hearing entitled "Medicare Physician Fee Cuts: Can Small Practices Survive." The hearing examined the business challenges faced by small medical practices and the impact Medicare physician fee cuts would have on the operation of health care practices. Testimony was provided by Herb Kuhn, Deputy Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; Dr. David C. Dale, MD, FACP on behalf of the American College of Physicians (ACP); Dr. Cecil Wilson, MD on behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA); Mona Reimers on behalf of the Medical Group Management Association; Tom DiAngelis, PT, on behalf of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA); and Dr. Charles Mabry, MD, FACS on behalf of the American College of Surgeons.

ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS IN SMALL SPECIALTY PRACTICES

On Thursday, July 31, 2008, the Committee on Small Business held a hearing entitled: "Cost and Confidentiality: The Unforeseen Challenges of Electronic Health Records in Small Specialty Practices." In spite of findings about the many benefits of HIT, its dissemination has been slow, due in part to the high costs of Electronic Health Records (EHR) systems for smaller health care practices. Small health care practices have been reluctant to install systems because of concerns over the upfront capital investment, ongoing maintenance and short-term productivity loss. Costs concerns have led to public and private efforts that aim to increase the pace of HIT adoption. But cost alone is not the only concern before members of the medical profession. The adoption of EHR is particularly troublesome for specialty practices. One issue that is unique to certain specialty practices is patient confidentiality. Despite best efforts, how and in what manner the records of children, abused

women, and those suffering from mental illness will be protected remains a concern. Certain small health care practices protect extremely intimate patient information, so there is increased concern about confidentially, which can also increase exposure to liability over improper disclosure. The hearing focused on the broad discussion about cost and privacy and how both have influenced the adoption of EHR by solo and small group specialty practices. Testimony was provided by Philip W. Tally, MD, on behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons; Robert Plovnick, MD, MS, on behalf of the American Psychiatric Association; Edward Gotlieb, MD, FAAP, on behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics; Ralph Hale, MD, FACOG, on behalf of American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; and Thaddeus Bort, MD, on behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

KATRINA CONTRACTING

On April 12, 2007, the Committee held a field hearing in New Orleans, Louisiana, entitled "Participation of Small Businesses in Hurricane Katrina Recovery." The hearing largely emphasized the shortcomings of the major agencies involved in awarding Gulf Coast recovery contracts with regard to their local and small business usage. The Committee heard testimony from the Honorable Lurita Doan, Administrator, General Services Administration; Mr. Paul Schneider, Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland Security; Dr. James Finley, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense; Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Admiral Patrick Dunne, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning, and Preparedness, Department of Veterans Affairs; and Mr. Steven Preston, Administrator, Small Business Administration.

On August 2, 2007, the Committee held a hearing entitled "Disaster Planning and Recovery: Are We Ready for Another Katrina?" This hearing was intended as a follow-up to two hearings—the February disaster loan hearing, and the April field hearing on Katrina contracting. The Committee requested and reviewed data from the agencies that previously testified, to monitor their progress. It found that progress had not been made with regard to local and small business contracting. The Committee will continue to monitor this situation. The Committee heard testimony from Ms. Lurita Doan, Administrator, General Services Administration; Mr. Paul Schneider, Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland Security; Dr. James Finley, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense; Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Mr. Robert Henke, Assistant Secretary for Management, Department of Veterans Affairs; and Mr. Steven Preston, Administrator, Small Business Administration.

EMERGING PROCUREMENT METHODS

On March 6, 2008, the Committee held a hearing entitled "Are New Procurement Methods Beneficial to Small Business Contrac-

tors?" As a result of the decreasing acquisition workforce, agencies are turning to more automated methods of awarding government contracts such as schedule contracting and reverse auctions. The Committee examined the effect of these methods on small business contractors and determined that these methods are not clearly producing greater value or increased efficiency. The Committee heard testimony from Mr. Paul Dennett, Administrator, Office of Federal Procurement Policy; Mr. Jim Williams, Commissioner, Federal Acquisition Service, General Services Administration; Major General Ron Johnson, Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Mr. John Palatiello, Administrator, Council on Federal Procurement of Architectural and Engineering Services; Mr. Anthony Zelenka, President, Bertucci Contracting Corporation; Mr. Mark Leazer, Forms & Supply, Inc.; Mr. Arthur Salus, President, Duluth Travel; and Mr. John Spotila, CEO, R3i Solutions.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE (GAO) INVESTIGATION AND REPORT ON THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S HUBZONE PROGRAM

On July 17, 2008, the Committee held a hearing entitled "Small Business Administration's Contracting Programs and Recent GAO Examination of Programs" to consider the GAO's findings regarding the potential for fraud in the HUBZone program. Both GAO's Financial Markets and Community Investment division as well as the Forensic Audits and Special Investigations group examined the program and concluded that SBA does not have sufficient controls for fraud prevention and detection. SBA pledged to improve the program in several ways. The Committee will monitor the agency's progress in making improvements. Acting Administrator Ms. Jovita Carranza testified on behalf of SBA. GAO was represented by Mr. William Shear, Director, Financial Markets and Community Investment; and Mr. Gregory Kutz, Managing Director, Forensic Audits and Special Investigations.

TRADE POLICY

On November 1, 2007, the House Small Business Committee held a hearing entitled "Evaluating the Impact of Pending Free Trade Agreements upon U.S. Small Businesses." The hearing focused on the potential impacts of the treaties with countries in Latin America and Asia upon small U.S. businesses, including changes in domestic and market opportunities. The hearing also considered Federal resources, such as export promotion programs, which support small producers' competitiveness in the global economy and ensure their access to newly opened markets. Testimony was provided by the Deputy U.S. Trade Representative regarding the Office of the USTR's efforts to incorporate small business concerns into the negotiation and implementation of trade agreements. Business representatives of the service, manufacturing, agricultural and technology sectors testified as to the potential impacts of the agreements to small firms in these industries.

On June 13, 2007, the Committee on Small Business held a hearing entitled: "U.S. Trade Policy and Small Business." The hearing

focused on the impact of Federal trade policies and resources that effect small firms' competitiveness in the globalized economy. Testimony was provided by administrators from the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, the Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service Division regarding their efforts to promote international transactions by small businesses. Witnesses representing manufacturing, service and agricultural sectors highlighted foreign and domestic market access issues facing small firms as a result of trade liberalization.

On June 19, 2008, the Committee on Small Business held a hearing entitled "Small Business Exports in the Current Economic Climate." The purpose of the hearing was to examine trends in small businesses export activities during the country's economic downturn. As overseas sales are particularly critical during an economic slowdown to offset reduced domestic consumption, the hearing examined problems small businesses are facing as they attempt to access foreign markets and contribute to the nation's growth. The Committee received testimony from the small business owners in the manufacturing and resource-based industries. They highlighted the export regulations and shifting transportation patterns creating obstacles to foreign customers. A representative of the textile industry testified regarding trade and fiscal policies that create disadvantages for small U.S. exporters. A trade policy analyst and academic highlighted public policies that promote the competitiveness of small businesses in global markets, particularly during an economic downturn.

SMALL BUSINESS POLICY AT THE U.S. EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

On January 17, 2008, the Committee on Small Business held a hearing entitled "Oversight of the U.S. Export-Import Bank's Implementation of its Small Business Mandate." The purpose of the hearing was to examine the U.S. Export-Import Bank (Eximbank), which was created Congress in 1934 to help stimulate foreign trade and increase employment. Specifically, the hearing considered the status of Eximbank's implementation of recent legislative initiatives to strengthen its small business programs. The Committee received testimony from the Chairman and President of the U.S. Export-Import Bank, James Lambright. His testimony highlighted the steps the Bank has taken to administer the small business provisions mandated in the agency's recent reauthorization as well as overall lending activities to the sector at Eximbank. Representatives of small businesses in export-based industries testified on financing needs and presented recommendations for improved export assistance through the institution.

TAX POLICY

On March 22, 2007, the Committee held a hearing on the 3 percent government withholding requirement. In an effort to close the tax gap, Sec. 511 of the 2005 TIPRA requires the government to withhold 3 percent on nearly all of its payments for goods or services. However, for many small businesses that operate on small

profit margins and need cash to conduct their operations, the 3 percent withholding requirement would literally put many small businesses that operate exclusively on government contracts out of business. Witnesses included Vincent Iannelli of Iannelli Construction on behalf of the Associated General Contractors, Daryl Deel of NEI Transport Inc. on behalf of the American Trucking Associations and Lamar Whitman, Public Policy Manager for the Computing Technology Industry Association. The witnesses testified how harmful this provision would be for their business in that the withheld money could mean difference between meeting payroll, expanding a company or buying needed equipment while reducing their ability to compete against their corporate counterparts. All interested parties were of the mindset that the 3 percent withholding requirements needs to be repealed in full.

On April 26, 2007, the Committee held a hearing on the tax gap. The tax gap is the difference between the amount of taxes paid voluntarily and timely for a given year and the amount of taxes due. The IRS pointed to small businesses and self-employed individuals as being major contributors to the tax gap and the hearing addressed ways in which efforts to close the tax gap would impact small businesses. Witnesses included the Honorable Mark W. Everson, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Keith Hall, National Tax Advisor for the National Association for the Self-Employed, Paul Hense, CPA on behalf of the National Small Business Association, James E. Brennan, CPA American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Donald C. Alexander, Former IRS Commissioner Partner, and Mr. Joe Samuel Senior Vice President, Public Policy First Data Corporation. The witnesses testified how some of the proposals by the IRS would unduly harm small businesses and that much of the tax gap could be closed by simplifying the tax code and making it compliance easier.

On October 3, 2007, the Committee held a hearing on the Internet Tax Moratorium, which currently bans taxes on internet access, and prevented taxes on Internet transactions and was set to expire on November 1, 2007. The hearing focused on the effect that policy has had on the ability of small businesses to successfully compete in the new digital economy. Witnesses included Brian Bieron the Senior Director, Federal Government Relations for eBay Inc., Brett Dewey, CEO of WickedCoolStuff.com, David P. McClure President & CEO of the U.S. Internet Industry Association, Ross J. Lieberman Vice President of Government Affairs for the American Cable Association and Raymond Keating Chief Economist for the Small Business Economic Council. The witness testimony focused on how a tax free Internet has proved to be the great leveling field in American business today, permitting small businesses with less access to capital to compete with much larger businesses. As such, all witnesses were in agreement that a permanent extension of the moratorium was needed so as to continue to foster small business development in the digital economy.

On February 14, 2008, the Committee held a hearing on Business Activity Taxes (BATs) and their impact on small businesses. BATs are taxes imposed by states on out of state businesses in the form of income taxes, royalty fees, or licensing fees for conducting business within a particular state's borders. The hearing highlighted the many problems small businesses face when attempting to conduct interstate sales. Witnesses from the technology, manufacturing, and restaurant industries explained that because states have imposed these taxes, they have faced increased tax liabilities, increased litigation costs, and increased administrative costs due to the complex tax provisions of the various states. The witnesses stressed to the Committee that federal legislation is required to set a bright-line standard so that small businesses know that when they conduct business in a particular state, they could potentially be subject to its taxing regime. As a follow up to the hearing, the Committee sent a comment letter to the Judiciary Committee which detailed the substance of the hearing. The letter, signed by Chairwoman Velázquez and Ranking member Chabot, indicated the concerns regarding BATs from the small business perspective while also stating that the Committee is willing to work with Judiciary on a matter of great importance to the small business community.

On April 10, 2008, the Committee held a hearing on how certain updates could be made to the Internal Revenue Code that could help small businesses stimulate the economy. Although there is a real need for reform to make our economy more competitive in an increasingly globally competitive world, the Committee believes that there is an immediate need for a more limited modernization of some of the most antiquated provisions of our current business tax system that better reflect the economy that we are operating in today. As such, the Committee held this hearing and heard testimony from small businesses operating in the technology, manufacturing, and food and service industries. The witnesses explained to the Committee that in many respects, the tax code has not adequately responded to the economy that exists in the 21st century, and this hinders their ability to grow and expand their business. Along with the hearing, the Committee released a report, which detailed 7 ways the Internal Revenue Code should be immediately updated. Finally, the Committee introduced legislation, H.R. 6601, which will attempt to incorporate those recommendations into law.

On June 5, 2008 the Committee held a hearing focused on the housing crisis and the ripple effect it has had on small businesses and our nation's economy. By some estimates, the housing industry comprises nearly 10 percent of our nation's Gross Domestic Product making it a critical component of our nation's economic well being. However, increased foreclosures, declining home values, and slumping sales of new homes have affected consumer confidence and spending as many Americans and small businesses have witnessed their most significant asset rapidly depreciate. Further, small businesses such as home builders, contractors, engineers, architects, and those in the financial service industry permeate the housing

industry and rely on it for survival. The hearing gave members of the Committee the opportunity to analyze potential tax relief, including a first-time home buyer's credit, and other tax preferences which could provide relief to the industry. The Committee heard from those small businesses directly affected by the housing downturn, such as the National Association of Home Builders, the National Association of Realtors, and the Independent Community Bankers, who testified that a housing stimulus package must be passed to aid this struggling industry.

On June 12, 2008, the Committee held a hearing entitled "Electronic Payments Tax Reporting—Another Tax Burden for Small Businesses." The hearing examined recent efforts to require information tax reporting on all credit card receipts of small businesses. Specifically, this hearing focused on the potential administrative and financial burdens that new reporting requirements could create for small businesses and financial institutions. The Committee received testimony from a leading electronic payment processing company, a Midwest-based financial institution, the National Small Business Association, and the National Association of the Self-Employed.

On July 24, 2008, the Committee held a hearing on the stimulus package enacted in February of 2008 and its impact on small businesses and the economy in general. The hearing also examined the current state of the economy, and whether another round of stimulus is needed, what form that should take, and small business' role in getting our nation back on track. The Committee heard testimony from a wide spectrum of industries, including the American Banking Association, the National Retail Federation, and the American Council of Engineering Companies. Each group spoke about specific policies, such as banking reform, rebate checks, and infrastructure spending, and how those proposals could benefit both small businesses and our national economy. The Committee also heard testimony from Mark Zandi, an economist, and founder of MoodysEconomy.com. Mr. Zandi emphasized the need for another round of stimulus targeted in the $50–100 billion range as a way to boost the sagging economy due to waning affects of the last stimulus package.

On September 11, 2008, the Committee held a hearing to examine expiring tax incentives and the needs of small businesses. The Committee heard testimony from the National Biodiesel Board, The National Restaurant Association, the International Council of Shopping Centers, and the Semiconductor Equipment and Materials International.

SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH (SBIR) PROGRAM

On January 29, 2008, the House Committee on Small Business convened a hearing entitled "SBIR: America's Technology Development Incubator". The Committee heard testimony from Douglas Doerfler, President & CEO, MaxCyte, Inc, Michael Borrus, General Partner, X/Seed Capital, Lawrence Farrell, President & CEO, Na-

tional Defense Industrial Association, Robert J. Beall, President and CEO, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and William Bean, Director, Technology and Business Center, College of William and Mary. The hearing examined the importance of the SBIR program to American competitiveness as well as changes to it that may strengthen the initiative.

On March 13, 2008 the House Small Business Committee convened a legislative hearing to review a Committee Print of draft legislation reauthorizing and modernizing the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. The Committee heard testimony from the Honorable Steven Preston, Administrator, United States Small Business Administration, the Honorable James C. Greenwood, President and CEO, Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), Mark G. Heesen, President, National Venture Capital Association, Mark Leahey, Executive Director, Medical Device Manufactures Association, Mark Skinner, Vice President, State Science and Technology Institute and Charles Matthews Professor of Management, University of Cincinnati.

IMPACT OF GEORGIA DROUGHT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

On March 25, 2008 at 10:00 a.m., the Small Business Committee held a field hearing in LaGrange, GA examining the impact of local droughts on small businesses. The Committee heard testimony from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other affected parties on the impact of recent droughts on Georgia. The hearing examined the challenges the drought presented for individuals and businesses in the landscaping, tourism and other industries.

SMALL BUSINESS ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

On December 8, 2008, the Small Business Committee held a field hearing in Asheville, NC. The hearing examined the effect of industrial contamination on small businesses and their surrounding communities, as well as potential solutions. The Committee heard from small business owners and stakeholders on their concerns about the issue.

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

On July 23, 2007, the Small Business Committee held a field hearing in Philadelphia, PA. This hearing examined the contributions of women entrepreneurs to Pennsylvania's economy and the challenges that they face. The panel was comprised of small business owners, lenders, and entrepreneurial assistance groups, as well as an SBA representative. The witnesses discussed their successes and the obstacles they have overcome to get their businesses off the ground. The women entrepreneurs on the panel further discussed the policies that have assisted them or that could help them expand in the future. The other representatives on the panel discussed the financial and technical assistance programs that are available to the women entrepreneur community.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND TAX

OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

DATA SECURITY AND SMALL BUSINESS

On June 6, 2007, the Subcommittee on Finance and Tax held a hearing entitled "Data Security: Small Business Perspectives." The subcommittee discussed how the issue of data security is impacting small businesses. In addition, the subcommittee examined the efforts of small businesses to secure data from increasingly sophisticated threats. The hearing assessed proposals for a federal data security law and how they can be crafted to account for the unique needs of small businesses. Witnesses from the retail, credit card and information technology industries testified.

PENSION PARITY BETWEEN SMALL AND LARGE BUSINESSES

On October 24, 2007, the Subcommittee on Finance and Tax held a hearing regarding the barriers small businesses face in offering pension benefits to their employees as compared to larger entities. The witnesses included Catherine Collinson, of Transamerica Retirement Services, Jim McCarthy, Managing Director of Morgan Stanley, Sal Tripodi, a retirement benefits specialist on behalf of the American Society of Pension Professionals and Actuaries and Paula Calimafde, the Chair of the Small Business Council of America. The hearing revealed that many small firms cannot afford to provide retirement benefits or lack the in-house expertise necessary to comply with complicated Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) guidelines. As a result, only 15 percent of micro businesses offer pensions to their employees. Witnesses discussed how changes in the tax code and modifications to existing retirement vehicles would encourage employees to save more for retirement while alleviating some of the burden on business owners.

OVERSIGHT OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S ACCESS TO CAPITAL PROGRAMS

On March 5, 2008, the Subcommittee on Finance and Tax held a hearing regarding the SBA's access to capital programs. This included testimony from the Eric Zarnikow, the Associate Administrator for Capital Access at SBA, the National Association of Government Guaranteed Lenders, the National Association of Development Companies, the National Association of Small Business Investment Companies, and the Association of Enterprise Opportunity. The Subcommittee heard about the challenges SBA program participants face in making capital more available for small firms.

THE SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMY

On April 30, 2008, the Subcommittee on Finance and Tax held a hearing to examine the effect that prevailing economic conditions have had on small business access to capital. In particular, the Committee examined how small firms have been affected by a contraction in the national credit supply and explored how these conditions impacted national employment, gross domestic product, and trade. The subcommittee received testimony from the Independent Community Bankers of America, the Credit Union National Association, a small business owner testifying on behalf of the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce, and a small business owner testifying on behalf of the Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce.

S-CORPORATIONS

On June 18, 2008, the Subcommittee on Finance and Tax held a hearing to discuss the business classification known as the S corporation and what potential changes should be made to their operating rules. Over the past 50 years, S-corporations have become the favored entity classification for small businesses. However, many of the rules relating to the S-corporation regime date back nearly half a century. Additionally, in many ways, the tax code treats S corporations differently than other entity classifications, such as partnerships and C corporations, even though they may be similarly situated in terms of their business operations. Thus, the hearing gave Committee members the opportunity to examine which changes could be made to better help small businesses raise capital and improve impediments to growth. Members heard testimony from the banking industry along with those in the tax preparation community who explained the importance of S corporations to the family owned business and how the vitality of the S corporation contributes to small business growth, development, and expansion.

On September 17, 2008, the Subcommittee on Finance and Tax held a hearing on Disaster Savings Accounts and their protections for small businesses. Witnesses from the financial services, baking, and manufacturing sectors testified during the hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONTRACTING AND TECHNOLOGY

OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EFFORTS IN CONTRACTING WITH WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES

On March 21, 2007 the Subcommittee on Contracting and Technology held a hearing on the implementation of the Women's Procurement Program and federal government efforts in contracting with women-owned businesses. The first panel of agency representatives reviewed the status of their respective agencies' efforts to meet their goals with regard to contracting with women-owned businesses and individual successes within their programs. They went over their reports and data related to their accomplishments and their plans to support and include women-owned businesses in contract efforts in the future. SBA Deputy Administrator Carranza went through the current status of the implementation of the Women's Procurement Program. The report of under-represented industries has been completed and regulations are being prepared. The second panel comprised of the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce as well as women entrepreneurs testified as to their challenges in accessing federal contracts.

RENEWABLE ENERGY WORKFORCE NEEDS

On Wednesday, June 20, 2007, the Subcommittee on Contracting and Technology convened a hearing entitled: "Meeting the Workforce Demands of Small Bio-Energy Businesses". The Subcommittee heard from two sets of panelists, which included: Panel 1—The Honorable Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA), Chairman, Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee. Panel 2—John Caupert, Director, National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Center; Ron Litterer, First Vice President, National Corn Growers Association (NCGA); Bruce Rastetter, CEO, Hawkeye Renewables; Dr. Patricia Keir, Chancellor, Eastern Iowa Community College District Office; Dr. Kelly J. Tiller, PhD, Assistant Professor, Agricultural Policy Analysis Center, The University of Tennessee; and Dr. Colin R. South, President, Mascoma Corporation. The subcommittee explored the potential for sustaining the renewable fuels sector for small businesses in rural America. Members heard from expert witnesses on issues dealing with industry growth and expansion, as well as the need for future investment in human capital in the renewable fuels industry and possible solutions to worker shortages.

SMALL BUSINESS ENERGY TAX POSSIBILITIES

On Wednesday, September 26, 2007 the Subcommittee on Contracting and Technology hearing entitled: "Small Business Renewable Energy Tax Incentive Possibilities". Considering energy tax

policies will enhance the small business role in new alternative sources of energy by moving our country away from foreign sources of petroleum. The Subcommittee listened to testimony from expert witnesses on how more renewable energy investment can occur if changes are made to the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). The panelists discussed the importance of energy tax policy as a driving force behind renewable energy production and development, a field in which small businesses have been leading the way. The subcommittee heard how small businesses are suffering from high energy prices. The subcommittee listened to testimony from Mr. Quentin T. Kelly, Chairman & CEO, WorldWater & Solar Technologies Corp.; Mr. Craig Breitbach, Director, Western Dubuque Biodiesel; Mr. Ed Woolsey, President, Green Prairie Wind Development; Mr. Kim Zuhlke, Vice President—New Generation, Alliant Energy Corporation; and Mr. John Hutchinson, Vice President—Finance, Powell Construction.

PLAIN LANGUAGE IN PAPERWORK—THE BENEFITS TO SMALL BUSINESS

On February 26, 2008, the Subcommittee on Contracting and Technology held a hearing entitled "Plain Language in Paperwork—The Benefits to Small Business." The Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Honorable Christopher Cox delivered testimony. The Subcommittee heard testimony from organizations representing small businesses, retired persons and a plain language expert. Witnesses discussed the complexities of government forms, notices and instructions. The Subcommittee examined how the use of plain language by the federal government can reduce the paperwork burden on small businesses.

THE DTV TRANSITION AND SMALL BUSINESS

On May 7, 2008, the House Committee on Small Business Subcommittee on Contracting and Technology convened a hearing entitled "The DTV Transition and Small Businesses: Small Firms Contributing to a Big Change." The Committee heard testimony from Mr. Greg Hephner, President, Hephner TV and Electronics Inc., Mr. Ed Pardini, Senior Vice President of Operations, Mediacom Communications, Mr. Keith Oliver, Senior Vice President of Corporate Operations, Home Telephone Company, and Mr. Jack Dempsey, General Manager of WJHL-TV in Johnson City, Tennessee. The hearing examined the impact of the DTV transition on small broadcasters, small cable and video service providers and small electronics retailers. The Subcommittee also considered whether there are appropriate measures Congress should take in order to minimize the burden of the DTV transition on small firms, particularly those small firms serving rural areas.

OVERSIGHT OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S CONTRACTING PROGRAMS

On April 16, 2008, the Subcommittee on Contracting and Technology held a hearing centered around SBA contracting programs. The Subcommittee considered the management and effectiveness of the 8(a), service-disabled veterans, and HUBZone programs, as well as the agency's proposal to implement the women's procure-

ment program. The Committee heard testimony from Ms. Fay Ott, Associate Administrator for the Office of Government Contracting and Business Development, Small Business Administration; Ms. Margot Dorfman, CEO, U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Chris Bates, President, National Office Products Alliance; Mr. Charles Day, Senior Member, Charles F. Day & Associates, LLC; and Ms. Aundrea Wilcox, Executive Director, Kingsport Office of Small Business Development & Entrepreneurship.

ENSURING CONTINUITY OF CARE FOR VETERAN AMPUTEES: THE ROLE OF SMALL PROSTHETIC PRACTICES

On Wednesday, July 16, 2008, the Subcommittee on Contracting and Technology held a hearing entitled "Ensuring Continuity of Care for Veteran Amputees: The Role of Small Prosthetic Practices." Providing America's veterans with quality prosthetic care depends on the Veterans' Administration (VA) working closely with small prosthetic vendors to fill the service gaps in the VA's health care system. Despite the VA's efforts to ensure amputees have access to quality prosthetic care, prosthetic professionals claim the VA's procurement process does not reflect the rapidly changing face of the prosthetic's industry. Ultimately, practices contracting with the VA and veterans relying on them for care are being negatively impacted. Given these concerns, the hearing focused on the VA's relationship with independent prosthetic contractors and the VA's efforts to ensure continuity of care for amputees through the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN). Particular attention was given to identifying the future needs of amputee soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, and how the VA and independent prosthetic contractors can best work together to address their needs. Testimony was provided by 1) AAOP President James Roger on behalf of the American Academy of Orthotists & Prosthetists (AAOP); 2) Dennis Clark, President of Clark & Associates Prosthetics and Orthotics 3) Mr. Frederick Downs Jr., Chief Prosthetics and Clinical Logistics Officer, Veterans Health Administration; 4) NAAOP President Thomas Guth on behalf of the National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics (NAAOP); 5) Christian Smith, President and Co-Owner of Victory Orthotics & Prosthetics, Inc.; and 6) Captain Matthew Bacik, Retired Army.

SMALL BUSINESS RECOVERY FROM THE MIDWEST DISASTERS OF 2008

On September 24, 2008, the Subcommittee on Contracting and Technology held a hearing entitled "Small Business Recovery from the Midwest Disasters of 2008." Testimony was heard from the Small Business Administration official Jovita Carranza and affected business owners. Mr. Mike Tully, President and CEO of Aerial Services, Inc. in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Mr. David Wilke, owner of Wilke's Grocery Store in Elkader, Iowa. Mr. Don Bowers, the owner and operator of Tapken's Convenience Plus in Anamosa, Iowa. Mr. Don Karr, owner of Affordable Plumbing and Remodeling in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, a company that provides design, products, installation and repair for home improvement needs. Mr. Mike Monnahan, President of The Blue Strawberry Coffee Company, a popular coffee house located in downtown Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Mr. Randy Pilkington, who serves as Executive Director of Business and Com-

munity Services at the University of Northern Iowa in Waterloo, Iowa.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS, HEALTH CARE AND TRADE

OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

THE VALUE OF HEALTH IT TO SOLO AND SMALL MEDICAL PRACTICES

On March 28, 2007, the Subcommittee on Regulations, Health Care and Trade held a hearing "The Value of Health IT to Solo and Small Medical Practices." The hearing focused on the importance of health IT to smaller health care practices, barriers to implementation, and what Congress can do to increase health IT adoption by solo and small group practitioners. Testimony was provided by Dr. Lynne M. Kirk, MD, FACP, the President of the American College of Physicians, Dr. Mark Leavitt, MD, PhD, Chairman, Certification Commission for Health Information Technology (CCHIT), Dr. Margaret Kelley, MD, a practicing OB/GYN in San Antonio, Texas, and Dr. David R. Shober, D.O, a family practice physician and Medical Staff President of Jameson Hospital in New Castle, Pennsylvania.

ENSURING PROMPT PAYMENT FOR SMALL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

On August 1, 2007, the Subcommittee on Regulations, Health Care and Trade held a hearing entitled "Ensuring Prompt Payment for Small Health Care Providers." The hearing focused on prompt payment of insurance claims by insurers to health care providers and how claim delays impact the operation of small health care practices. Testimony included an examination of state prompt payment laws as well as federal requirements under ERISA and government health care programs such as Medicare. Witnesses included Dr. Cecil B. Wilson, M.D., Immediate Past Chair of the Board of Trustees for the American Medical Association; Dr. Robert Merrill, D.D.S., M.S., Chairman of the Committee on Government Affairs for the American Association of Orthodontists; Dr. David Henkes, MD, Immediate Past President of the Bexar County Medical Society in San Antonio, Texas; Dr. Gordon T. Austin, D.M.D., P.C., President of the Northwest District of the Georgia Dental Association; and Dr. Frank B. Kelly, MD, Chair of the Communications Cabinet for the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

MEDICARE'S REIMBURSEMENT CUTS

On November 8th, 2007, the Subcommittee on Regulations, Health Care and Trade held a hearing entitled "Medicare's Reimbursement Cuts: The Potential Impact on Solo and Small Group Practitioners and the Businesses they run." The hearing focused on the challenges faced by solo and small group practitioners; and how Medicare reimbursement cuts have impacted their practices. A primary focus of the hearing involved the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) that is used to determine the payment rates for physician reimbursements. Testimony was provided by Dr. Brad Fedderly, on

behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP); Dr. Jeffrey P. Harris, MD, FACP, on behalf of the American College of Physicians—American Society of Internal Medicine (ACP); Dr. Melinda Rother Allen, D.O., on behalf of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA); Dr. Kenneth L. Noller, MD, MS, on behalf of the Alliance of Specialty Medicine as well as the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; and Dr. John B. Whitlow, OD, on behalf of the American Optometric Association (AOA).

MINORITY PARTICIPATION IN THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE

On April 23, 2008, the Subcommittee on Regulations, Health Care and Trade held an oversight hearing entitled "Minority and Hispanic Participation in the Federal Workforce and Its Impact on the Small Business Community." The focus of this hearing was the federal government's efforts to address new challenges with their workforce, hiring and leadership succession. Five witnesses testified at the hearing: Ms. Nancy Kachik, the Associate Director for Strategic Human Resources Policy, Office of Personnel Management; Mr. Daryl Hairston, Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Management and Administration; Mr. George H. Stalcup, Director, Strategic Issues, Government Accountability Office; Mr. Jose Osegueda, President and CEO of the National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives (NAHFE); and Mr. William Gil, Vice President, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU).

IMPACT OF ONLINE ADVERTISING ON SMALL FIRMS

On June 25, 2008, at 10:00, the Subcommittee on Regulations, Health Care and Trade convened a hearing entitled "The Impact of Online Advertising on Small Firms." The Subcommittee heard testimony from Mr. Tim Carter, Founder, Askthebuilder.com, Mr. Paul Sanar, Founder & CEO, SkyFacet.com, Mr. Rob Snell, Co-owner of GunDogSupply.com, Mr. Randall Rothenberg, President and CEO of Interactive Advertising Bureau and Mr. Richard Lent, Founder and CEO of AgencyNet. The hearing examined the benefits of on-line advertising to smaller firms and the increasing importance of on-line marketing strategies to many successful small businesses. The hearing also considered concerns that some small companies have raised about the challenge of driving traffic to their websites.

CMS REGULATIONS AND SMALL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

On May 14, 2008, the Subcommittee on Regulations, Health Care and Trade held a hearing entitled "The Impact of CMS Regulations and Programs on Small Health Care Providers." Mr. Timothy Hill, the Chief Financial Officer of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services delivered testimony. The Subcommittee heard testimony from organizations representing small health care providers including physicians, clinical labs and a home care provider. The pharmacy industry delivered testimony. Witnesses discussed how CMS regulations and programs are affecting small firms.

REGULATORY BURDENS ON SMALL FIRMS

On July 30, 2008, the Subcommittee on Regulations, Health Care and Trade held a hearing entitled "Regulatory Burdens on Small Firms: What Rules Need Reforms?" The Subcommittee heard testimony from the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs at the Office of Management and Budget, Susan E. Dudley; the Chief Counsel for Advocacy, Small Business Administration, Thomas M. Sullivan; and the Deputy Commissioner of the Small Business/Self-Employed Division at the Internal Revenue Service, Chris Wagner. Organizations representing small businesses, architects and the self-employed also delivered testimony. Witnesses discussed the burdens of existing regulations on entrepreneurs, and how agencies are complying with the Regulatory Flexibility Act. The hearing examined the Office of Advocacy's regulatory reform initiative.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON RURAL AND URBAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

BROADBAND POLICY AND RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

On May 9, 2007, the Subcommittee on Rural and Urban Entrepreneurship convened a hearing entitled "Maximizing the Value of Broadband in Rural Communities." The Subcommittee heard testimony from Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission, Mr. Brandon Stephens, Chairman of the Board, BalsamWest FiberNET, Mr. T. Russell Shields, Founder, Ygomi LLC, Mr. Russ Kremer, President, Missouri Farmers Union, Mr. Brent J. Christensen, Vice President and General Manager of Christensen Communications Company, Mr. Brian Mefford, President and CEO, ConnectKentucky, Mr. William Deere, Vice President, Government Affairs, US Telecom. The hearing examined the role broadband services can play in revitalizing rural economies.

HOW CAN SMALL BUSINESSES BEST ADDRESS THE HEALTHCARE NEEDS OF THEIR EMPLOYEES?

On August 30, 2007, the Subcommittee on Rural and Urban Entrepreneurship held a field hearing in Asheville, NC, entitled "How Can Small Businesses Best Address the Healthcare Needs of Their Employees?" The hearing focused on barriers to offering insurance coverage faced by small business owners, factors which influence the decision of small businesses to offer coverage, and possible solutions to bringing down costs and increasing coverage. Witnesses included small business owners from the Asheville, North Carolina, community. Testimony addressed small business concerns about the structure of the small group health insurance market and the tax treatment of small firms.

USDA AND SBA PROGRAM HARMONIZATION

Chairman Heath Shuler (D–NC) on Wednesday, November 14. 2007, at 10:00 a.m., convened a Subcommittee on Rural and Urban Entrepreneurship hearing entitled: "Program Harmonization in Rural America—How the Small Business Administration (SBA) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Can Work Together to Better Serve Small Businesses". The subcommittee considered and examined how Small Business Administration (SBA) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs have worked, and gained a better understanding and how the two agencies can work better together in the future through potential program harmonization and improved communications. The subcommittee gleaned knowledge from the small business community that included distinguished guests such as: Mr. William Shear, Director, Financial

Markets and Community Investments, Government Accountability Office (GAO); Ms. Katy Ziegler, Vice President of Government Relations, National Farmers Union (NFU); Mr. Dale Carroll, President and Chief Executive Officer, Advantage West Economic Development Group; Michael Myhre, CPA, State Director, Minnesota Small Business Development Center Network, On Behalf of the Association of Small Business Development Centers; and Mr. Leon Milobar, Nebraska District Office, U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

SBA ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND NATIONAL VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

On March 12, 2008, the Subcommittee on Rural and Urban Entrepreneurship held a hearing entitled "Oversight of the Entrepreneurial Development Programs Implemented by the Small Business Administration and National Veterans Business Development Corporation." Oversight was conducted for the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Entrepreneurial Development (ED) portfolio and to evaluate the effectiveness of the National Veterans Business Development Corporation's efforts to serve the needs of veteran small business owners. The purpose of the hearing was to consider the management approach and distribution of federal resources to implement these programs, particularly given the recent release of the administration's FY 2009 budget in combination with weakening economic conditions.

The Committee received testimony from the SBA Associate Administrator for Entrepreneurial Development regarding the agency's upcoming budget and management plans for these programs. Entrepreneurial development program operators, including representatives of the Association of Small Business Development Centers and Women's Business Centers, as well as the Service Corps of Retired Executives, testified on the programs' capacities to meet the needs of small businesses and provided recommendations to improve the structure as well as delivery of the agency's ED programs. The Executive Director of the National Veterans Business Development Corporation (NVBDC) also testified on the effectiveness of the organization in assisting veterans to become successful entrepreneurs.

SECOND GENERATION BIOFUELS—THE NEW FRONTIER FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

On Wednesday June 11, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., the Subcommittee on Rural and Urban Entrepreneurship convened a hearing entitled: "Second Generation Biofuels—the New Frontier for Small Businesses." This forum provided a discussion of the current renewable fuels programs, and how they apply to the next generation fuels. It also enabled the subcommittee to consider future policies that will further develop the industry's future. To sustain the growth and development of this industry, the subcommittee looked forward to the next generation of renewable fuels derived from alternative inputs. This subcommittee heard testimony about growth opportunities newer technologies for renewable fuels production can provide in the future. Witnesses included: Dr. Robert J. Wooley, Director, Process Engineering, Abengoa Bioenergy New Technology; Mr.

Scott Barnwell, General Manager, Blue Ridge Biofuels in Asheville, NC; Mr. Tom Todaro, CEO, Targeted Growth and Sustainable Oils; Mr. Jeffrey M. Trucksess, Executive Vice President, Green Earth Fuels, LLC; and Mr. Robert Byrnes, Nebraska Renewable Energy Systems.

COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

On Wednesday, May 21, 2008, the Subcommittee on Rural and Urban Entrepreneurship held a hearing entitled "Competitive Bidding for Durable Medical Equipment." Small durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS) suppliers have experienced difficulty with the competitive bidding program. Many claim the bidding program is fraught with procedural flaws and operational problems that call into question the fairness of the overall process. Given these concerns, the hearing focused on the bidding program's structure, operational problems, and the financial impact it could have on DMEPOS suppliers and manufacturers. Testimony was provided by Laurence Wilson, Director of DMEPOS Policy, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; Julie Weidemann on behalf of the VGM Group; Dr. Bob Haralson M.D. on behalf of the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons; Dr. Rebecca H. Wartman O.D. on behalf of American Optometric Association; Linwood Staub on behalf of the Advanced Medical Technology Association; Dr. Rebecca H. Wartman O.D. on behalf of the American Optometric Association; Casey Hite on behalf of the American Association for Homecare (AAHomecare) and the North Carolina Association of Medical Equipment Services; Heath Sutton on behalf of Mountaineer Oxygen Services; Jon Einfalt on behalf of the Association of Community Pharmacists; and Mr. Gary Gilberti on behalf of the National Coalition for Assistive and Rehab Technology.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS AND OVERSIGHT

OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

On October 31, 2007, Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight held a hearing entitled "Competitive Bidding for Durable Medical Equipment: Will Small Suppliers Be Able to Compete?" The hearing focused on how the competitive bidding program for certain durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS) has been structured, the manner in which it will be implemented, and its impact on small business suppliers and manufacturers. Additional attention was also given to alternative approaches to the program. Testimony on the subject was provided by Laurence Wilson, Director of DMEPOS Policy, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; Georgetta Blackburn on behalf of the American Association for Home Care; Dr. Ross Taubman, President Elect of the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) will testify on behalf of the APMA; John Shirvinsky on behalf of Pennsylvania Association of Medical Suppliers; Carol Gilligan, on behalf of Health Aid of Ohio, Inc.; Richard Saxon, on Behalf of the Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed); and Jose Navarro, on behalf of the National Association of Chain Drug Stores.

SBA'S RESPONSE TO THE JULY 5TH FLOODS IN BEAVER COUNTY, PA

On August 23, 2007, the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight held a field hearing in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, entitled "The SBA's Response to the July 5 Floods in Beaver County, Pennsylvania." That hearing focused on the SBA's response to flooding that occurred in Beaver County Pennsylvania on July 5, 2007. The Committee received testimony from the SBA's Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance, as well as from the Chairman of the Beaver County Board of Commissioners, the Beaver County Chamber of Commerce, the Director of the local library, and a small business owner from Aliquippa. These individuals provided testimony on the effects of the flooding, the status of SBA assistance in the community, and progress that had been made in recovering from the flood.

NATIONAL VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

On May 2, 2007, the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight held a hearing entitled "Is the Veterans Corporation Prepared to Provide Entrepreneurial Development Assistance to Service Men and Women Returning from Iraq & Afghanistan?" The hearing focused on the National Veterans Business Development Corporation (Veterans Corporation), a public-private organization designed to

provide entrepreneurial development assistance to veterans seeking to start and expand businesses. The focus of the hearing was considering the effectiveness of Veteran Corporation to assist recent veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. The Committee received testimony from administrators of the Veterans Corporation and the Small Business Administration's Veterans Affairs Office regarding ongoing assistance and new programs for former service members. Representatives of veteran service organization testified regarding the Veterans Corporation's limited outreach, service delivery, and performance accountability while suggesting modifications to the organization.

SBIR AND MEDICAL INNOVATIONS

On February 13, 2008, the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight convened a hearing entitled "SBIR: Advancing Medical Innovations." The hearing examined the impact of the SBIR program on the development of innovative medical technologies, therapies and products. The Subcommittee heard testimony from Jo Anne Goodnight SBIR/STTR Program Coordinator, National Institutes of Health, Amy Comstock Rick, Chief Executive Officer, Parkinson's Action Network, Mel Billingsley, President and CEO, Life Sciences Greenhouse, James D. Stefansic, Chief Technology Officer, Pathfinder Therapeutics, Inc., and Charles Matthews, Nicholas Franano, Chief Scientific Officer, Proteon Therapeutics, Inc.

THE IMPACT OF INCREASING GAS PRICES ON SMALL BUSINESSES

On April 9, 2008, the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight held a hearing entitled: "The Impact of Increasing Gas Prices on Small Businesses." Rising prices and volatile supplies of gasoline and diesel fuel impacts small businesses' bottom line and ability to do business at a time when our economy is heavily reliant on transportation to move products to and from the marketplace.

The subcommittee heard from experts from Mr. John Urbanchuk, Economist, LECG; Mr. Tim Williford, Chairman Government Affairs Committee, Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors—National Association; Mr. Gary Gilberti, Chesapeake Rehab Equipment; Mr. Michael J. Graff, President & CEO, Graff Trucking, Inc.; and Mr. Vincent F. Orza, Jr., Dean, Meinders School of Business, Oklahoma City University.

The witnesses presented testimony focusing on a wide range of issues including: plans for the future to deal with high energy costs; changes and modifications to their business plans in order to accommodate and absorb rising costs; dealing with the inability to invest in new capital due to the higher cost of gas; and the overall adverse impact prices at the pump have on their particular business sector.

NURSING HOME SAFETY ISSUES

On Wednesday, July 23, 2008 at 10:00 am in Room 1539 of the Longworth House Office Building, the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight of the Committee on Small Business met for the purposes of examining the impact of criminals and sexual predators on the operations of small businesses that operate long-term

care facilities, either intermediate care facilities (ICFs) [13] or skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) collectively and colloquially referred to as nursing homes. The hearing assessed the regulatory problems associated with the placement of criminals and sexual predators in nursing homes by state officials and the industry's response to that problem. Witnesses from the nursing home industry, victim advocacy and other interested parties testified on the subject matter.

[13] ICFs provide long-term care for residents who do not require the 24-hour nursing services available in SNFs. These institutions, along with definitions for SNFs, were made in 1967 amendments to the Medicare statute. National Academy of Science, Institute of Medicine, IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF CARE IN NURSING HOMES 242 (1986).

OVERSIGHT PLAN FOR THE 110TH CONGRESS

Clause 2(d) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives for the 110th Congress requires that each standing committee in the first session of a congress adopt an oversight plan for the two-year period of the Congress and submit the plan to the Committee on Government Reform and the Committee on House Administration.

Clause 1(d)(1) of rule XI requires each committee to submit to the House not later than January 2 of each odd-numbered year, a report on the activities of that committee under rules X and XI during the Congress ending on January 3 of such year. Clause 1(d)(3) of rule XI also requires that the report include a summary of the oversight plans submitted pursuant to clause 2(d) of rule X; a summary of the actions taken and recommendations made with respect to each such plan; and a summary of any additional oversight activities undertaken by the committee and any recommendations made or actions taken thereon.

Part A of this section contains the Oversight Plan of the Committee on Small Business for the One Hundred Tenth Congress, which the Committee considered and adopted on January 31, 2007.

Part B of this section contains a summary of the actions taken to implement that plan and the recommendations made with respect to the plan. Additional oversight activities undertaken by the Committee, and the recommendations made or actions taken thereon, are contained in the specific sections relating to the activities of the full Committee and each of the subcommittees.

PART A

OVERSIGHT PLAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS FOR THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

JANUARY 31, 2007. Approved by the Committee on Small Business.
Approved by the Committee on Small Business

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, from the Committee on Small Business, submitted to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on House Administration the following

REPORT

Clause 2(d)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives for the 110th Congress requires each standing committee, no later than February 15 of the first session to adopt an oversight plan for the 110th Congress. The oversight plan must be submitted simultaneously to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on House Administration.

The following agenda constitutes the oversight plan of the Committee on Small Business for the 110th Congress. It includes areas in which the Committee and its subcommittees expect to conduct oversight during this Congress, but does not preclude oversight or investigation of additional matters or programs as they arise. The Committee will consult, as appropriate, with other committees of the House that may share jurisdiction on any of the subjects listed below.

I. Oversight of the Small Business Administration

A. Agency Management. The Committee will review the management of the Agency's programs, personnel, and financial resources. The Committee will examine methods the SBA uses to manage risk in its loan portfolio and review the agency's policies and practices regarding its lending partners. The Committee will review the agency's outreach and public/private funding initiatives through cooperative agreements, partnerships and co-sponsorships. Further, the Committee will evaluate the status of the SBA's transformation plan, personnel training initiatives, and incentive programs. The Committee also will review the working relationship between the agency and its Inspector General to ensure that management recommendations and objectives are being actively considered. Finally, the Committee will continue to assess the agency's financial management and reporting goals.

B. Lending Programs. The Committee will examine the SBA's lending programs to ensure that they meet the needs of small busi-

nesses. The Committee will examine ways to reduce the cost of the 7(a) loan program to both small businesses and lenders. In addition, the Committee will review proposals that would expand and broaden the program's reach, including those focused on low-income and rural areas. The Committee will conduct oversight hearings regarding the 504 Certified Development Company program to ensure that it is properly carrying out its mission of economic development and job creation. The Committee will also review the Microloan program with the intent of reducing barriers to its growth and expansion.

C. Investment Programs. The Committee will study the impact of the recent termination of the Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) Participating Securities program on entrepreneurs. In particular, the Committee will seek to understand the effect of its termination on early stage firms as well as on investment companies. The Committee will examine proposals that would reopen the SBIC Participating Securities program, as well as alternative venture capital investment initiatives. Finally, the Committee will consider policy changes that would increase individual angel investment and foster small business growth.

D. Disaster Programs. The Committee will evaluate the SBA's disaster programs to ensure that they can meet the needs of small businesses affected by disasters. This includes reviewing policy proposals that would make more effective use of private sector lenders, improve the agency's response times, better coordinate the agency's program with other federal efforts, and provide for improved system resiliency. The Committee will oversee any actions the agency has taken to modify the disaster program. Finally, the Committee will consider policy and organizational alternatives for providing disaster assistance to homeowners.

E. Entrepreneurial Development Programs. The Committee will evaluate the SBA's Entrepreneurial Development programs and whether existing initiatives have the capacity to meet the needs of their growing and diverse constituencies. The Committee will ascertain whether the Small Business Development Centers network has the capacity and infrastructure to provide assistance to address the unique challenges facing small business, particularly with respect to energy, regulatory fairness, healthcare, and under-served entrepreneurs. The Committee will examine the Women Business Centers program to look for ways to meet the mutual goal of creating new Centers versus the sustainability of existing Centers. In carrying out this review, the Committee will study whether the sustainability funding formula needs modification to ensure that the original intent of the program's creators is met.

F. Government Contracting and Business Development Programs. The Committee will oversee the SBA's efforts to maximize small business participation in the federal marketplace. In particular, SBA's role in mitigating bundled contracts will be assessed. Further, the Committee will review SBA's role in the miscoding of the size of businesses awarded federal government contracts. The Committee will examine the SBA's 8(a) program to ensure that its rules and regulations do not impede minority business growth and development. The Committee will review the HUBZone program to ensure that the program is being utilized properly by contracting

officers and the program is meeting its objective of promoting economic development in poor regions of the United States. The Committee will assess the Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Procurement Program to ensure that it is being properly carried out. Finally, the Committee will make certain that the Women's Procurement Program is implemented by the SBA.

G. Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. As part of its efforts to reauthorize the SBIR program during the 110th Congress, the Committee will evaluate the effectiveness of the program and will endeavor to gather first-hand testimony from SBIR program administrators, SBIR program participants, and relevant experts. The Committee will investigate potential changes to the SBIR program that would advance critical national priorities including energy independence and economic development in urban and rural empowerment zones and enterprise communities. The Committee will also examine the STTR program's effectiveness as a means to help small businesses gain access to technologies developed at federal laboratories.

H. Office of Advocacy. The Committee will assess the Office of Advocacy's Economic Research programs to determine if they meet the underlying mission of the Office.

I. Veterans Corporation. The Committee will review the on-going activities of the National Veterans Business Development Corporation to determine whether the Corporation is serving as an effective advocate for veteran-owned businesses. In particular, the Committee will evaluate the relationship between the SBA and the Corporation to identify whether the SBA is working cooperatively with the Corporation or whether work is being unnecessarily replicated. The Committee will identify whether the Corporation's efforts at expanding and enhancing private funding options have been successful. The Committee also will investigate whether additional federal investment is warranted and, if so, for what duration.

II. Agriculture

A. Federal Agricultural Policy. The Committee will examine the impact of federal policies on family farms, ranchers, and rural small businesses. The Committee will conduct oversight hearings on Farm Bill reauthorization legislation to investigate the policies' effects on the income, production costs, and prices received by small producers.

B. Financial Assistance. The Committee will examine federal resources, including loans and fee subsidies, which spur private enterprises in rural areas. The Committee will evaluate federal programs that provide training, information, and networking resources to enhance entrepreneurial activity in these regions.

C. Biofuels. The Committee will examine the role that farmers and rural businesses can play in the development of biofuels. The Committee will examine the operational needs of small farmers working to shift production from food to energy crops and to build facilities to refine alternative resources.

D. Value Added Products. The Committee will increase oversight of financing and technical assistance programs that assist small farmers' expansion into emerging niche agricultural markets, in-

cluding organic products. The Committee will examine the operational needs of small farmers working to add value to outputs and maintain competitiveness in the changing marketplace.

E. Rural Economic Development. The Committee will oversee federal activities to spur economic development in rural communities. The Committee will conduct hearings on the physical and financial infrastructure needed to maintain and grow small rural businesses.

III. Energy

A. Energy Prices. The Committee will conduct hearings on the impacts of rising energy and petroleum prices on small businesses, particularly fuel intensive sectors, such as farming, transportation, and those that use petroleum products as feedstock.

B. Relief Measures. The Committee will examine price relief measures in existing and upcoming energy legislation and their application to small businesses struggling under burdensome fuel costs.

C. Energy Efficiency. The Committee will investigate methods to increase energy efficiency and resource conservation practices for small businesses. The Committee will increase oversight of federal initiatives to streamline business operations and reduce operational costs for small firms.

IV. Financial services

A. Trends in Small Business Financing. To better understand the mechanisms that small firms are using to fund their business, the Committee will examine recent research, including the Federal Reserve's Survey of Small Business Finances.

B. Access to Financial Services. The Committee will review federal laws that impede small businesses fair access to financial services such as their ability to receive interest on checking accounts or to have a variety of potential lending options.

C. Role of Small Lenders. The Committee will endeavor to assess the impact of consolidation in the financial services industry on small lenders and small business borrowers. In addition, the Committee will review industry trends and regulatory developments that may reduce the availability of financing to small firms.

D. Insurance. The Committee will evaluate the use of insurance products by small businesses, including property/casualty lines. The Committee will assess the impact of federal insurance reforms on small insurance firms and small business insured. Finally, the Committee will examine the tort liability system and its impact on the cost of insurance, particularly for small businesses.

E. Capital Formation. The Committee will examine challenges that small businesses face in raising capital. This will include a review of federal securities laws and regulations that affect small firms, such as Securities and Exchange regulation S–B.

V. Health care

A. Access to Affordable Health Coverage and State Market Reforms. The Committee will evaluate a number of health care policies designed to expand access to affordable health insurance through small employers. The Committee will look at proposed fed-

eral changes to give small employers greater options for coverage. The Committee will examine current and proposed state initiatives to promote coverage and the impact of these reforms on small employers in those markets. The Committee will examine the impact of these changes on the small group health insurance market.

B. Expanding Available Options for Small Employers to Purchase Health Insurance. The Committee will examine options for removing barriers to affordable small employer coverage. The Committee will conduct hearings to review new and emerging policies to increase access to affordable health care coverage. These possible changes include, but are not limited to, increasing pooling mechanisms for small businesses, reinsurance models, and ERISA reforms.

C. Tax Credits. The Committee will examine the possibility of tax credits to promote coverage and their impact on small employers. In particular, the Committee seeks to understand whether tax credits are a viable vehicle for health care market reform and the budgetary effect of such changes. The Committee will hold hearings to explore tax credits and other approaches to encourage small employer purchase of coverage for their employees.

D. Health IT Adoption. The Committee will conduct hearings to evaluate the economic benefits derived through the adoption of a uniform, secure, interoperable health information technology infrastructure (Health IT) by small health care groups—i.e., physicians, vendors and other providers. In particular, the Committee will consider the degree to which Health IT creates market efficiencies and whether those advantages will exist for small groups. The Committee will evaluate the challenges of Health IT adoption.

E. Health Care Cost and Quality. The Committee will examine efforts to increase access to information on the cost and quality of health care. The Committee will conduct hearings to explore how access to cost and quality information can affect the purchase of insurance by small employers.

F. Health Care Provider Compensation and Regulatory Structure. The Committee will examine federal reimbursement of health care providers and the effect that such reimbursement decisions have on non-Medicare/Medicaid insurer reimbursement to physicians and other healthcare providers. The Committee will evaluate state regulation, such as insurance laws that affect provider compensation and business organization. The Committee will hold hearings to consider how current practices within the health care market affect small health care providers.

VI. Immigration

The Committee will review proposals to reform the nation's immigration system to ensure that small businesses will be able to readily access a high-quality workforce. The Committee will examine reform proposals to ensure that enforcement, security and economic needs are appropriately balanced.

VII. International trade

A. International Agreements. The Committee will hold hearings on the impact of new and existing international commitments on the small business sector. The Committee will increase oversight of

ongoing international negotiations to ensure trade regulations, standards, and facilitation measures serve the needs of small businesses.

B. Trade Enforcement. The Committee will evaluate trade enforcement activities, particularly affecting intellectual property rights, and methods to protect small businesses from unfair trade practices. The Committee will investigate trade remedies for firms adjusting to pressures from low-cost overseas and corporate producers.

C. Export Assistance. The Committee will examine efforts to increase small businesses' access to global markets, including initiatives to reduce excessively burdensome administrative and legal requirements. The Committee will conduct oversight of federal export assistance programs, including those conducted by the Export-Import Bank, the SBA, and the United States Departments of Commerce and Agriculture, which seek to reduce small firms' costs of expanding into international markets.

VIII. Pensions and retirement

A. The Committee will examine the current state of pension coverage for small employers. The Committee will look at reforms to improve the plan options for small businesses and possible ways to defray administrative costs of operating the plan. The Committee will hold hearings to look at innovative ways to promote coverage for small businesses and their employees. This will include looking at modifications to defined benefit and defined contribution plans to encourage coverage.

B. The Committee will assess the impact of recently passed pension legislation on small employer's ability to offer pension plans. This will include an examination of the impacts on promoting coverage and addressing any concerns over increased liabilities of offering a pension plan.

IX. Procurement

A. Federal Procurement Practices. The Committee recognizes the increase in use of contracting methods such as interagency contracting and electronic procurement and will work to ensure that these procedures allow the full participation by small businesses. The Committee will work to make sure that the regulations are being followed in a manner that enables competition, increases small business procurement opportunities, and provides the government with the best value.

B. Transparency. The Committee will work to increase transparency in federal procurement activities. Greater transparency will allow agencies to be evaluated fairly on their commitment to competition, integrity, and best value, as well as their support of small business and entrepreneurship.

C. 2005 Gulf Coast Hurricanes. The Committee will continue to monitor the recovery efforts related to the 2005 Gulf Coast Hurricanes as well as investigate past contracting actions related to those events. The Committee will specifically look at emergency procurement practices, such as the use of no-bid contracts and increasing the micropurchase threshold, to enhance small business participation as prime contractors while ensuring maximum com-

petition to the extent permitted by the necessities of the emergency.

D. Iraqi Reconstruction. The Committee will monitor the contracts awarded for the reconstruction of Iraq, with an emphasis on ensuring that small businesses have received fair prime contracting and subcontracting opportunities. The Committee will hold accountable those agencies and contractors who fail to provide competition as required by law.

E. Contract Bundling. The practice of contract bundling displaces small businesses from the federal marketplace. The Committee will continue to monitor the use of "bundled" contracts and ensure that regulations are being followed. The Committee will continue to work to "unbundle" contracts when appropriate.

F. Federal Contracting Goal. The Committee will review federal agencies performance in meeting annual contracting goals. In order to foster greater small business participation in the federal marketplace, the Committee will seek to work with agencies that have historically underperformed in meeting their contracting goals.

G. Sole Source Contracting. The Committee will continue to monitor the use of sole-source contracts, particularly with regard to Alaska Native Corporations. The Committee will work to ensure that all socio-economic contracting programs are operating as intended.

H. Agency Miscounting of Contracts. As a follow-up to a hearing in which GAO found that agencies were counting contracts awarded to large corporations towards their small business procurement goals, the Committee will investigate the sufficiency of agencies' efforts to rectify the problem. The Committee also will investigate the adequacy of the Federal Procurement Data System and its capabilities to record accurate data on federal procurement by government agencies, especially as it relates to the size of the business awarded a contract.

I. Inaccurate Reporting of Federal Contracting Awards. The Committee will evaluate the accuracy of procurement data used to determine the small business goal and whether agencies knowingly relied on inaccurate data to achieve these goals. The Committee will examine the causes for such inaccuracies, including, but not limited to, management oversight, appropriateness of procurement policies, and adequacy of funds.

J. Contracting Certifications by Business. The Committee will investigate if any large businesses improperly certified themselves as small in order to receive contracts. Furthermore, the Committee will assess whether federal procurement officials took any actions to uncover these problems and implemented steps to prevent them. Should the Committee uncover questionable practices, it will report them to the appropriate enforcement authorities.

X. Regulations

The Committee will examine federal agency rules and regulations, as well as legislation that proposes such rules and regulations, to ensure that small businesses are not subject to undue regulatory burdens. In doing so the Committee will focus on:

A. Whether the regulation imposes unnecessary barriers to competitive market entry by small businesses and places small

businesses at a competitive disadvantage with respect to larger competitors, including the impact that Section 404 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act is having on the competitiveness of small companies;

B. Whether the regulation minimizes recordkeeping and reporting requirements including the elimination of any duplicative requirements as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act;

C. Whether the rules and regulations are in plain English;

D. Whether the rules and regulations are indistinguishable of existing state and local regulations; and

E. Whether small businesses are provided sufficient compliance assistance including small entity compliance guides issued by agencies as mandated by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act.

In addition, the Committee will examine the agency process for promulgating rules and regulations to include:

A. The adequacy of an agency's compliance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act;

B. Whether the agency minimized burdens and maximized benefits for small businesses while achieving its statutory and regulatory objectives; and

C. Whether small businesses have been provided sufficient opportunity to comment and provide input into the development of regulations.

XI. Tax

A. Tax Simplification and Relief. The Committee will hold hearings on the concerns over the growing complexity of the tax code for small employers. The Committee will work to identify ways to simplify the tax code and reduce the tax burden on small business owners. The Committee will focus on changes to the tax code that provide targeted tax relief and equity for small business owners. In addition, the Committee will examine any specific tax relief including, but not limited to, expensing and depreciation that will spur investment by small businesses.

B. Alternative Minimum Tax. The Committee will examine ways to reform the alternative minimum tax to provide tax relief for small businesses. The Committee will review proposed changes and the budgetary costs of making such modifications.

C. Tax Gap Efforts by the IRS. The Committee will examine recent efforts by the IRS to close the so-called "Tax Gap" and the impact of these measures on small businesses. The Committee shall review efforts by the agency that have a negative impact on small businesses. The Committee will examine measures to close the tax gap through legislative changes and the impact of these changes on small businesses.

D. Investment in Small Business and New Markets Tax Credit. The Committee will review what is being done to encourage economic growth and investment in small businesses through the tax code. The Committee will look at ways to encourage equity investment in small businesses. The Committee will look at the current state of the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) program.

E. Estate Tax. The Committee will examine the impact of the sunset of the estate tax repeal on business planning and the ability

of small businesses to continue as going enterprises after the deaths of the founders.

XII. Technology and innovation

A. Technology Workforce. The Committee will further investigate the regulations governing the annual cap on H–1B visas and the process by which such visas are issued, in light of the challenge small technology companies have in hiring and retaining scientists, researchers and engineers.

B. Financing for Startups. The Committee will review the eligibility requirements of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program with respect to venture capital investment to ensure that small companies are afforded a wide array of financing options. In addition, the Committee will examine the eligibility requirements for the SBIR program to determine the extent that venture capital investment should be permitted in the program.

C. Broadband. The Committee will assess the role that small companies can play in the development and expansion of wireless and wire line broadband technologies. The Committee also will review the impact on the planned spectrum auctions will have on small business. This review will examine the process by which the Federal Communications Commission complies with 3(a)(2) of the Small Business Act while meeting its obligations under 332 of the Federal Communications Act of 1934 to provide opportunities for designated entities including small businesses.

D. Development of Energy Efficient Technologies. The efforts of technology companies to create and promote energy efficient devices will be examined, as well as ways that the federal government could encourage more of America's small businesses to adopt "green" technologies. The Committee will look at the potential modifications to the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program that could advance national energy independence. The Committee also will examine whether changes made by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 affect the viability of renewable energy generators.

E. eWaste. The Committee will review the efforts that the technology industry, particularly small companies, is making to address the growing challenge of recycling computer equipment and peripherals.

PART B

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OVERSIGHT PLAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS FOR THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

I. Oversight of the Small Business Administration

A. Agency management

The Committee continued to oversee the management of the SBA through hearing on the agency's FY 2008 and FY 2009 budget proposals. These hearings, as well as associated meetings and interviews with agency personnel, informed the Committee of the SBA's managerial operations. On February 8, 2007 the Committee on Small Business held a hearing of the SBA's proposed budget for FY 2008. This hearing included a review of the administration's funding requests as well as agency management of key policy initiatives for the fiscal year. The Committee heard testimony from SBA Administrator Steven Preston. On February 7, 2008 the Committee on Small Business held a hearing of the SBA's proposed budget for FY 2009. This hearing included a review of the administration's funding requests as well as agency management of key policy initiatives for the fiscal year. The Committee heard testimony from SBA Administrator Steven Preston.

In addition to the annual budget hearings, the Committee held several hearings on SBA's management of agency programs, including those related to disaster assistance, entrepreneurial development, lending, and contracting. Finally, the Committee requested a GAO investigation into the agency's management of the HUBZone program and also requested that the SBA examine irregularities in the award of contracts through the 7(j) program.

B. Lending programs

The Committee has conducted several hearings and briefings on the SBA's lending programs. The Committee held three hearings that focused exclusively on the SBA's 7(a), Certified Development Company, and Microloan programs, culminating in the introduction of two pieces of legislation, H.R. 1332 and H.R. 3020, which were ultimately reported out of Committee and passed by the House. On March 1, 2007, the Committee on Small Business held an oversight hearing entitled, "Increasing Access to Capital for Our Nation's Small Businesses." That hearing examined the challenges faced by entrepreneurs in securing affordable financing through the 7(a) and 504 loan programs. On March 8, 2007, the full Committee held a hearing entitled, "Disaster Relief and Access to Capital Legislation." In that hearing, the Committee reviewed legislation affecting the SBA's Access to Capital programs. Specifically, this hearing focused on the H.R. 1332, the Small Business Lending Improvements

Act, legislation to improve and expand the SBA's 7(a) and Certified Development Company loan programs.

In passing H.R. 1332, the Committee satisfied several of its objectives concerning the SBA's Access to Capital programs. H.R. 1332 featured an initiative that will reduce the borrower and lender fees associated with the 7(a) loan program. Additionally, the bill contained provisions that would expand the reach of the 7(a) and 504 loan programs, particularly in rural areas and for socially and economically disadvantaged areas. Finally, H.R. 1332 will make an array of technical changes to the 504 loan program and enhances the ties between 504 lenders and the communities that they serve by requiring lenders to include locals on the board of directors.

On March 5, 2008, the Subcommittee on Finance and Tax held a hearing regarding the SBA's access to capital programs. This included testimony from Eric Zarnikow, the Associate Administrator for Capital Access at SBA, the National Association of Government Guaranteed Lenders, the National Association of Development Companies, the National Association of Small Business Investment Companies, and the Association of Enterprise Opportunity. The Subcommittee heard about the challenges SBA program participants face in making capital more available for small firms.

C. Investment programs

The Committee conducted two hearings on the SBA's investment programs, culminating in the introduction and passage of H.R. 3567, the Small Business Investment Expansion Act of 2007. On June 21, 2007, the Committee on Small Business held an oversight hearing entitled, "Increasing Investment in Our Nation's Small Businesses." That hearing examined the challenges that small businesses face in seeking capital investment in the private markets. Of particular interest was witness testimony on the role of equitable investment for early stage and newly formed firms.

On September 6, 2007, the full committee held a hearing entitled, "A Hearing to Consider Legislation Updating and Improving the SBA's Investment and Surety Bond Programs." Specifically, that hearing examined draft legislation that would improve and expand the SBA's investment programs, including the Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) program and the New Markets Venture Capital (NMVC) program as well as the Surety Bond program.

In passing H.R. 3567, the Committee satisfied several of its objectives concerning the SBA's Investment programs. Perhaps most notably, H.R. 3567 established an Angel Investment Program under the purview of the SBA. The bill also modernized and streamlined three programs in the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, the SBIC, NMVC and Surety Bond programs. Finally, the bill will revise SBA rules that inhibited the free flow of venture capital investment to small businesses.

D. Disaster programs

The Committee has conducted several hearings and briefings on the SBA's disaster program. These activities were largely driven by the problems encountered in the SBA's response to the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricanes. The Committee held three hearings that focused on the SBA's disaster lending program and culminated its work on

the SBA Disaster Program with passage of H.R. 1361, the RECOVER Act.

On February 14, 2007, the Committee held a hearing entitled "The Small Business Administration's Response to the 2005 Gulf Coast Hurricanes." That hearing explored deficiencies in the Small Business Administration's response to the 2005 Gulf Coast Hurricanes and the concurrent Government Accountability Office report that examined the root causes of those problems. William Shear, the Director of Financial Markets and Community Investment at the Government Accountability Office, who presented the results of a concurrently released GAO report entitled "Response to the Gulf Coast Hurricanes Highlights Need for Enhanced Disaster Preparedness," which recommended that SBA take several steps to improve its disaster preparedness.

On March 8, 2007, the full Committee held a hearing entitled, "Disaster Relief and Access to Capital Legislation." The purpose of the hearing was to review legislation affecting the SBA's Disaster and Access to Capital programs. Specifically, this hearing focused on the H.R. 1361, the Relief for Entrepreneurs: Coordination of Objectives and Values for Effective Recovery Act of 2007 (RECOVER), legislation that would reform and improve the SBA's Disaster Assistance program. The Committee received testimony from the Associate Administrator for Disaster Relief. Additionally, the Committee received testimony from James Lee Witt, former director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

On August 23, 2007, the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight held a field hearing in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, entitled "The SBA's Response to the July 5 Floods in Beaver County, Pennsylvania." That hearing focused on the SBA's response to flooding that occurred in Beaver County Pennsylvania on July 5, 2007.

In passing the RECOVER Act, the Committee successfully addressed numerous problems that were identified following deficiencies in the SBA's response to the 2005 Gulf Coast Hurricanes. Most notably, the bill will require the SBA to perform comprehensive, risk-based, disaster planning on an annual basis and that the agency has mechanisms in place to maintain its disaster readiness over the long term. The act also establishes several new disaster assistance tools to improve the disaster planning process, including the reorganization of the agency's Office of Disaster Assistance, a requirement that the agency engage in an annual disaster simulation exercise, and requirements that the agency formalize plans to address the need for additional space and employees in the event of a major disaster.

The RECOVER act also enhances the SBA's disaster loan program by improving the manner in which disaster loans are processed, approved, and disbursed, and by providing the agency with additional financial assistance tools that are intended to better fit the various needs of small businesses following a disaster. H.R. 1361 established an Enhanced Lending Authority for Preferred Lenders Program that will enable the SBA to enlist the resources of private lenders to process, approve, disburse, and service loans during incidents of national significance. Finally, the bill creates a small grant program to assist small businesses damaged by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma with their continued recovery.

Finally, in response to the severe flooding that occurred in the Midwest during 2008, the Committee requested that resources be expedited to the area and maximum flexibility be given to affected parties. The Committee requested and received daily updates regarding the disaster loan program.

E. Entrepreneurial development programs

The Committee continued to monitor and update SBA Entrepreneurial Development Programs to ensure the agency meets the current needs of small businesses. Programmatic and resource evaluations were executed in particular of the agency's Small Business Development Centers and Women's Business Center Programs.

To evaluate the entrepreneurial development programs' service level and resource gaps, the Committee held a hearing on February 8, 2007 entitled "SBA FY 2008 Budget Request." SBA Administrators testified on the status of current ED programs, reported on improvements to agency resources, including increased efficiencies and performance. Representatives of outreach programs, including the SBDCs and WBCs as well as a Native American business owner testified regarding the need for adequate and guaranteed funding for their centers.

The Committee analyzed potential modifications to the agency's entrepreneurial programs in a hearing on May 16, 2007. Representatives of program service providers and agency administrators reviewed proposed legislation to reauthorize the Entrepreneurial Development Programs. On June 18, 2007, the House of Representatives voted 405–18 in favor of H.R. 2359, the "SBA Entrepreneurial Development Programs Act of 2007," a bill sponsored by Vice Chair of the Small Business Committee, Representative Sestak, to enhance the agency's business development programs. The Committee held a hearing regarding resource gaps for the agency's programs on September 27, 2007. Administration officials and program service providers presented funding level requests in order to maintain and upgrade capacity levels.

The Committee also explored the role of the SBA's Entrepreneurial Development programs through H.R. 4253, the Military Reservist and Veteran Small Business Reauthorization and Opportunity Act of 2007. This bill incorporated several of the initiatives contained in H.R. 2366, SBA Veterans' Programs Act of 2007. Most notably, H.R. 4253 increased funding for the SBA's Office of Veterans' Business Development and requires the SBA to increase the number of Veterans Business Outreach Centers throughout the U.S. The bill also establishes an interagency task force consisting of senior level representatives from the SBA as well as from several other Federal agencies and representatives from veteran service organizations to coordinate the efforts of Federal agencies to improve and expand access to veterans services and programs. The bill also establishes a National Reservist Enterprise Transition and Sustainability program through which the SBA will provide competitive grant awards to Small Business Development Centers, Women's Business Centers, Veterans Business Outreach Centers, and any other veterans business assistance program so that they may provide veteran-owned businesses with management, financing, procurement, technical, and regulatory assistance.

On March 12, 2008, the Subcommittee on Rural and Urban Entrepreneurship held a hearing entitled "Oversight of the Entrepreneurial Development Programs Implemented by the Small Business Administration and National Veterans Business Development Corporation. Oversight was conducted for the SBA's entrepreneurial development portfolio and to evaluate the effectiveness of the National Veterans Business Development Corporation's efforts to serve the needs of veteran small business owners. The purpose of the hearing was to consider the management approach and distribution of federal resources to implement these programs, particularly given the recent release of the administration's FY 2009 budget in combination with weakening economic conditions.

F. Government contracting and business development programs

The Committee conducted regular oversight through hearings on SBA's contracting programs, which reviewed the challenges that small firms face in making use of these initiatives. The Committee also held hearings on the SBA's implementation of the Women's Procurement Program. The Committee and the House passed legislation making changes to the SBA's 8(a), Service-Disabled Veterans, HUBZone, and other contracting programs. The Committee requested a GAO examination of the HUBZone program and a hearing was held on July 17, 2008 on the GAO's findings. In addition, the Committee requested that the SBA investigate improprieties in the award of contracts under the 7(j) program.

On September 19, 2007 the Committee conducted a hearing on the effectiveness of the SBA's contracting programs and the challenges they face. This was followed by an April 16, 2008 hearing in the Subcommittee on Contracting and Technology. The Subcommittee considered the management and effectiveness of the 8(a), service-disabled veterans, and HUBZone programs, as well as the agency's proposal to implement the women's procurement program.

On March 21, 2007 the Subcommittee on Contracting and Technology held a hearing on the implementation of the Women's Procurement Program and federal government efforts in contracting with women-owned businesses. On January 16, 2008 the Committee held a hearing to examine the SBA's implementation of the Women's Procurement Program. The SBA had issued a proposed regulation to administer the program and the Committee heard testimony on its adequacy and appropriateness given Congressional intent in creating the program. The first panel was comprised of the Administrator of the SBA and an official from the Department of Justice. The second panel was comprised of women-owned small businesses, a legal scholar, and a law practitioner.

G. Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs

The Committee on Small Business undertook a comprehensive reauthorization effort of the SBIR and STTR programs during the 110th Congress. This included oversight and legislative hearings, meetings with key stakeholders, and consideration of reauthorization legislation in both the Committee and on the House floor.

The Committee held three hearings on the reauthorization of the SBIR program. On January 29, 2008, the Committee held a hearing entitled "SBIR: America's Technology Development Incubator." The hearing explored the numerous contributions that the SBIR program makes to national security priorities, economic development objectives and America's international economic competitiveness. On February 13, 2008 the House Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight convened a hearing entitled "SBIR: Advancing Medical Innovations." The Subcommittee hearing examined the impact of the SBIR program on the development of innovative medical technologies, therapies and products. On March 13, 2008 the Committee on Small Business held a hearing to review a Committee Print of proposed legislation (H.R. 5819) that would reauthorize and modernize the SBIR program.

H.R. 5819, the SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act extends for a period of two years both SBIR and STTR. The legislation modernizes the SBIR program, changing the legislative guidelines and policies in order to update the program in response to the unique challenges facing small research companies. The Committee and House passed the legislation during the 110th Congress.

H. Office of Advocacy

The Committee conducted oversight of the Office of Advocacy through the annual budget process, as well as through hearings on Advocacy's effort to reduce regulatory burden on small firms. On December 6, 2007, the Committee held a hearing on legislation to improve the Regulatory Flexibility Act. The Chief Counsel for Advocacy at the Small Business Administration, Thomas M. Sullivan delivered testimony. On July 30, 2008, the Subcommittee on Regulations, Health Care and Trade held a hearing entitled "Regulatory Burdens on Small Firms: What Rules Need Reforms?" The Subcommittee heard testimony from, among other witnesses, the Chief Counsel for Advocacy, Small Business Administration, Thomas M. Sullivan. The hearing examined the Office of Advocacy's r3 regulatory reform initiative.

I. Veterans Corporation

The Committee continued to monitor the performance of the National Veterans Business Development Corporation (NVBDC) and the entity's ability to meet the needs of the current veteran population. The committee held meetings with NVBDC officials and Veteran Service Organization representatives to identify gaps in services by the organization as well as recommendations to improve its performance.

To evaluate the NVBDC's performance, the Committee held a hearing on May 2, 2007. Agency officials and veterans service organizations presented analysis on the NVBDC and proposals to comprehensively modernize the Federal government's veteran entrepreneurship resources.

The Committee also examined the role of the Veterans Corporation through H.R. 4253, the Military Reservist and Veteran Small Business Reauthorization and Opportunity Act of 2007. This bill incorporated several of the initiatives contained in H.R. 2366, SBA

Veterans' Programs Act of 2007. Most notably, H.R. 4253 contained a provision that removed the SBA Advisory Committee on Veterans Business Affairs from the purview of the Veterans Corporation and permanently extended the operational authority of the SBA Advisory Committee on Veterans Business Affairs.

II. Agriculture

A. Federal agriculture policy

The Committee conducted regular oversight of agricultural issues that affect small businesses and family farmers. On November 14, 2007, the Subcommittee on Rural and Urban Entrepreneurship held a hearing entitled "Program Harmonization in Rural America—How the Small Business Administration (SBA) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Can Work Together to Better Serve Small Businesses". The Subcommittee considered and examined how the SBA and USDA programs have worked, and gain a better understanding of how the two agencies can work better together in the future through potential program harmonization and improved communications.

On June 7, 2007, the Committee held a hearing on small business priorities in the 2007 Farm Bill. The Committee examined policies that assist small farmers and businesses with successfully competing in the domestic and global agricultural markets. On May 1, 2008, the Committee held a hearing on the impact of rail transportation access on family farmers. The Committee held a hearing on April 17, 2008, entitled "Maintaining Public Lands for Hunting, Fishing, Ranching and Small Businesses." The Committee examined how the Department of the Interior is meeting the needs of ranchers dependent on the use of public lands for grazing.

B. Financial assistance

The Committee examined the role that the SBA's financial assistance programs play in providing federal resources to spur private enterprises in rural areas. At hearings held on March 1, 2007 and March 8, 2007, the Committee received testimony from community banks and credit unions that stressed the need to increase rural lender participation in the SBA's 7(a) and 504 loan programs so that they may provide access to these programs for entrepreneurs in rural areas. To address these concerns, the Committee established a Rural Lending Outreach program under the framework of the 7(a) loan program in H.R. 1332. Additionally, the Committee directed the SBA to make improved nationwide distribution of investment program resources a priority of its New Markets Venture Capital program in H.R. 3567.

C. Biofuels

The Committee held several hearing on biofuels during the 110th Congress. On May 3, 2007, the Committee held a hearing entitled "The Impact of Renewable Energy Production in Rural America". This hearing focused on the consumption and production of renewable fuels. On June 18, 2008, the Subcommittee on Rural and Urban Entrepreneurship held a hearing on second generation biofuels. On June 20, 2007, the Subcommittee on Contracting and

Technology convened a hearing on the workforce demands on small bio-energy businesses. The subcommittee explored the potential for sustaining the renewable fuels sector for small businesses in rural America.

The Committee considered initiatives in H.R. 2389, the Small Energy Efficient Businesses Act (SEEBA) that ultimately passed the House in H.R. 3221 that were aimed at increasing small business development and use of biofuels. H.R. 2389 adapts the SBA's investment programs to achieve increased investment in small businesses involved in the research, development, production, or marketing of energy efficient goods, products, or services, including biofuels, by permitting licensed debenture SBICs to issue special Energy Saving (ES) Debentures that provide substantial benefits over existing debentures.

In addition to hearings, the Committee conducted oversight of biofuels issues through the legislative process. H.R. 2389 also creates a new program within the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 called the "Renewable Fuel Capital Investment Company" (RFCIC) program. This program will authorize the creation of new Renewable Fuel Capital Investment Companies (RFCICs) that issue SBA guaranteed debentures to invest in small businesses engaged in researching, manufacturing, developing, and bringing to market renewable energy sources, with specific emphasis on investing in businesses that produce biofuels.

D. Value added products

Through hearings on agricultural matters, the Committee considered challenges that family farmers face in developing value-added products. On June 18, 2008, the Subcommittee on Rural and Entrepreneurship held a hearing on second generation biofuels, which considered the possibility of using biomass, such as corn stover, husks, and cobs, to produce biofuels. On May 15, 2008, the Committee held a hearing on rising food prices and their impact on small businesses, which included considerable examination of cellulosic ethanol from non-food sources. Finally, on July 10, 2008, the Committee held a hearing on the role of green technologies in spurring economic growth. This hearing reviewed farms' role in generating electricity through alternative sources for their own utilization or to sell it back to the grid. This is a major opportunity for them to increase their investments and diversify their on- and off-farm financial risks.

E. Rural economic development

On June 7, 2007, the Committee held a hearing regarding family farms and rural small businesses. The committee examined policies that assist small farmers and businesses with successfully competing in the domestic and global agricultural markets. On May 9, 2007, the Subcommittee on Rural and Urban Entrepreneurship convened a hearing entitled "Maximizing the Value of Broadband in Rural Communities." The hearing examined the role broadband services can play in revitalizing rural economies.

III. Energy

A. Energy prices

The Committee conducted regular oversight of the impact of energy prices on small businesses. On August 31, 2007, the Committee held a field hearing in Johnson City, Tennessee on the cost and availability of energy and the effect on small businesses. The Committee discussed the importance of energy to small businesses as energy consumers, and talk about how increasing costs are cutting into profit margins. On April 9, 2008, the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight held a hearing on the impact of increasing gas prices on small businesses. On May 15, 2008, the Committee held a hearing on rising food prices and their impact on small businesses. The hearing considered the role that energy prices are contributing to food price inflation. The Committee conducted a hearing on June 26, 2008, entitled "Grounded: How the Air Transportation Crisis Is Hurting Entrepreneurs and the Economy." Witnesses discussed the effect of increasing energy prices on airlines and small firms in the travel and tourism industry.

B. Relief measures

On October 10, 2007, the Committee convened a hearing on small business energy policy, including an examination of policies that assist small businesses to successfully compete in the domestic and global marketplace. The Committee also included in H.R. 2389, the Small Energy Efficient Businesses Act (SEEBA) that ultimately passed the House in H.R. 3221 that were aimed at increasing small business energy efficiency through both conservation practices for small businesses and through the adaptation of existing SBA programs to fund energy efficient equipment and practices. H.R. 2389, the Small Energy Efficient Business Act (SEEBA) provides information, technical assistance, and access to capital to help small businesses implement, develop, and market energy efficient goods, products, and services. The bill also establishes a new lending program that would provide 7(a) loans that cost half the upfront guaranty and ongoing annual lender fees of regular 7(a) loans and a 90 percent guarantee if the proceeds of the loan are used to purchase or develop energy efficient technologies or reduce the borrower's energy consumption by 10 percent or more.

C. Energy efficiency

On July 11, 2007, the Committee held a hearing entitled: "Small Businesses at the Forefront of the Green Revolution: What More Needs To Be Done To Keep Them Here?" The hearing examined how small firms are playing a vital role in developing materials, and building "green" facilities in an ever changing global setting. On July 10, 2008, the Committee held a hearing on the role of green technologies in spurring economic growth. The hearing reviewed the role that small businesses play in producing green products and providing green services.

IV. Financial services

The Committee examined the most recent figures related to small business financing and held a hearing on November 7, 2007

to explore the results of the Federal Reserve's most recent survey of small business finances. The hearing coincided with the release of the 2007 Report to Congress on the Availability of Credit to Small Businesses. On April 30, 2008, the Subcommittee on Finance and Tax held a hearing to examine the effect that prevailing economic conditions have had on small business access to capital. In particular, the Committee examined how small firms have been affected by a contraction in the national credit supply and explored how these conditions impacted national employment, gross domestic product, and trade. On April 3, 2008, the Committee held a hearing to explore the role that credit cards play in providing small businesses with access to capital. Specifically, the Committee explored trends surrounding recent growth in credit card lending to small businesses and examined the specific advantages and disadvantages that credit cards provide to entrepreneurs.

The Committee explored the role of small lenders in small business access to capital at its March 1, 2007 and March 8, 2007 hearings. At those hearings, the Committee received testimony from the Credit Union National Association and from the Independent Community Bankers of America on the role that small lenders play in making capital available to small businesses. Additionally, the Committee examined the trend of continued consolidation in the financial services industry during its November 7, 2007 hearing on the State of the Small Business Economy as the Federal Reserve released data on the continued trend of small business lending through small financial institutions.

The Committee examined the process and challenges facing small businesses in capital formation through its June 21, 2007 and September 6, 2007 hearings on increasing investment to small businesses. These hearings focused on a variety of investment strategies, including patient venture capital, angel investment, and SBA investment programs.

V. Health Care

A. Access to affordable health coverage and state market reforms

The Committee convened several hearings on access to affordable health coverage and state market reforms. On October 25, 2007, the Committee held a hearing entitled "Health Insurer Consolidation—The Impact on Small Business." The hearing examined the effects of consolidation on the cost of health insurance and the impact on physicians and other health care providers in terms of reimbursements and administrative burdens. On February 26, 2008, the Committee held a hearing entitled "State Strategies To Expand Health Insurance Coverage for Small Businesses"—Featuring Testimony on Health Care Reform in Minnesota and Pennsylvania from Governors Pawlenty (R–MN) and Rendell (D–PA). The hearing examined the question of state health reform and how it may impact the small business community. The principal focus of the hearing was to assess whether state reform efforts will prove successful, and how the federal government can best assist states in their efforts to promote coverage.

B. Expanding available options for small employers to purchase health insurance

During the 110th Congress, the Committee reviewed policy options to expand health care coverage for small employers. On January 23, 2008, the Committee held a hearing entitled "Limited Options for Small Businesses in the Small Group Market." The hearing examined the challenges small businesses face providing health insurance coverage to their workers.

On May 24, 2007, the Committee on Small Business held a hearing entitled "Expanding Small Business Health Insurance Coverage Using the Private Reinsurance Market." The hearing focused on how reinsurance has been used by businesses to manage their risk of financial loss. Witnesses testified on alternative reinsurance arrangements that have been used by employers to control high risk and catastrophic health care costs associated with medical benefit plans. Testimony was also provided describing the current landscape of the reinsurance market and barriers to the adoption of reinsurance by small business in the health care arena.

On August 30, 2007, the Subcommittee on Rural and Urban Entrepreneurship held a field hearing entitled "How Can Small Businesses Best Address the Healthcare Needs of Their Employees?" The hearing focused on barriers to offering insurance coverage faced by small business owners, factors which influence the decision of small businesses to offer coverage, and possible solutions to bringing down costs and increase coverage. Witnesses included small business owners from the Asheville, North Carolina community. Testimony addressed small business concerns about the structure of the small group health insurance market and the tax treatment of small firms.

C. Tax credits

In its effort to examine health care issues, the Committee held hearings that considered changes in tax policy to encourage greater coverage of small employers. Among them was the March 14, 2007 hearing entitled "Challenges and Solutions to Health Insurance Coverage for Small Businesses." The hearing focused on barriers to coverage for small businesses ranging from their tax treatment under the Code to the structure of the health insurance market.

D. Health IT adoption

The Committee held two hearings that focused on Health IT issues. On March 28, 2007, the Subcommittee on Regulations, Health Care and Trade held a hearing "The Value of Health IT to Solo and Small Medical Practices." The hearing focused on the importance of health IT to smaller health care practices, barriers to implementation, and what Congress can do to increase health IT adoption by solo and small group practitioners. On Thursday, July 31, 2008, the Committee on Small Business held a hearing entitled: "Cost and Confidentiality: The Unforeseen Challenges of Electronic Health Records in Small Specialty Practices." In spite of findings about the many benefits of HIT, its dissemination has been slow, due in part to the high costs of Electronic Health Records (EHR) systems for smaller health care practices. Small health care practices have been reluctant to install systems because of concerns

over the upfront capital investment, ongoing maintenance and short-term productivity loss.

The Committee also addressed this issue during a hearing held on September 25, 2008, entitled "Small Business Competition Policy: Are Markets Open for Entrepreneurs?" The hearing examined how the FTC/DOJ Statements of Antitrust Enforcement Policy in Health Care have failed to keep up with changes in the health care marketplace and created barriers to the adoption of Health IT among providers.

E. Health care cost and quality

The Committee reviewed the cost and quality of health care through several hearings on agency procurement practices. On July 25, 2007, Committee on Small Business held a hearing entitled "Competitive Bidding for Clinical Lab Services: Where's It Heading and What Small Businesses Can Expect?" The hearing examined a competitive biding demonstration program developed by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services to reimburse clinical lab providers for Medicare services. In addition, on Wednesday, May 21, 2008, the Subcommittee on Rural and Urban Entrepreneurship held a hearing entitled "Competitive Bidding for Durable Medical Equipment." Small durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS) suppliers have experienced difficulty with the competitive bidding program. Many claim the bidding program is fraught with procedural flaws and operational problems that call into question the fairness of the overall process. Given these concerns, the hearing focused on the bidding program's structure, operational problems, and the financial impact it could have on DMEPOS suppliers and manufacturers.

F. Health care provider compensation and regulatory structure

The Committee held a series of hearings on health care provider compensation issues. On August 1, 2007, the Subcommittee on Regulations, Health Care and Trade held a hearing entitled "Ensuring Prompt Payment for Small Health Care Providers." The hearing focused on prompt payment of insurance claims by insurers to health care providers and how claim delays impact the operation of small health care practices. Testimony included an examination of state prompt payment laws as well as federal requirements under ERISA and government health care programs such as Medicare.

On November 8th, 2007, the Subcommittee on Regulations, Health Care and Trade held a hearing entitled "Medicare's Reimbursement Cuts: The Potential Impact on Solo and Small Group Practitioners and the Businesses They Run." The hearing focused on the challenges faced by solo and small group practitioners; and how Medicare reimbursement cuts have impacted their practices. A primary focus of the hearing involved the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) that is used to determine the payment rates for physician reimbursements. On Thursday, May 8, 2008, the Committee held a hearing entitled "Medicare Physician Fee Cuts: Can Small Practices Survive." The hearing examined the business challenges faced by small medical practices and the impact Medicare physician fee cuts would have on the operation of health care practices.

In addition to hearings, the Committee also included a provision in H.R. 1332, the Small Business Lending Improvements Act, to provide health professionals with a source of affordable capital when located in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). This provision would establish a program to reduce borrower and lender fees by half and increase the guaranty to 90 percent for loans made to doctors and dentists located in Federally designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). The Committee believes that this program, in combination with existing federal assistance programs, will help mitigate the risk associated with opening a new practice and encourage more health professionals to establish their small businesses in HPSAs.

VI. Immigration

The Committee held a hearing on May 10, 2007 on immigration policies and their impact on small firms. The committee heard testimony from small businesses regarding the role that immigration plays in their industry as well as their associated concerns about labor shortages, federal verification requirements, and the current visa system.

VII. International trade

A. International trade agreements

The Committee continued to evaluate the effectiveness of policies and resources that promote the competitiveness of small businesses as the economy becomes integrated with foreign countries through trade liberalization efforts. To evaluate the impact upon small businesses from U.S. commitments to open markets with partner countries, the Committee held a hearing on November 1, 2007. The hearing examined the likely result of agreements signed by the Administration and pending ratification by Congress with countries in Latin America and Asia. It also considered additional federal resources necessary for entrepreneurs to access newly opened markets and protect against unfair trade practices in the globalized economy.

To ensure small businesses have adequate tools to benefit from the opening of countries' borders, the Committee analyzed the SBA's international trade programs on February 8, 2007. The purpose of the hearing was to determine the agency's current level of service based on revenues and future demands for assistance to small U.S. businesses, including those engaged in exporting and in industries facing significant foreign competition.

B. Trade enforcement

The Committee continued to conduct extensive oversight of Federal and foreign enforcement of international trade rules and standards. Discussions were held with business groups and entrepreneurs to highlight the impacts from unfair trade practices. The Committee also monitored resources available for small businesses to ensure their continued viability as markets are opened to foreign competition.

To evaluate the impacts from the liberalization of trade rules, the Committee held a hearing on June 13, 2007 which highlighted

small businesses' need for tools to protect against unfair trade practices. Business groups, particularly manufacturing representatives, presented the case for enhanced access to trade remedy and dispute assistance at the federal level.

C. Export assistance

On June 19, 2008, the Committee on Small Business held a hearing entitled "Small Business Exports in the Current Economic Climate." The purpose of the hearing was to examine trends in small businesses export activities during the country's economic downturn and consider policies to assist small U.S. exporters.

VIII. Pensions and retirement

On October 24, 2007, the Subcommittee on Finance and Tax held a hearing regarding the barriers small businesses face in offering pension benefits to their employees as compared to larger entities. The hearing revealed that many small firms cannot afford to provide retirement benefits or lack the in-house expertise necessary to comply with Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) guidelines.

IX. Procurement

The Committee has conducted oversight of federal procurement policy through both hearings and the legislative process. On March 6, 2008, the Committee held a hearing entitled "Are New Procurement Methods Beneficial to Small Business Contractors?" The Committee examined the impact of the decreasing acquisition workforce and the new, automated methods that agencies are turning to, including schedule contracting and reverse auctions.

The Committee also conducted an extensive review of small business participation in Hurricane Katrina contracts. On April 12, 2007, the Committee held a field hearing in New Orleans, Louisiana, entitled "Participation of Small Businesses in Hurricane Katrina Recovery." The hearing focused on the contracting records of the most relevant government agencies. A follow-up hearing was held on August 2, 2008 to revisit these issues. Following this hearing, the Committee continued to review the agencies' performance.

The Committee considered several procurement matters through the legislative process, including contract bundling and raising the federal small business contracting goal. H.R. 1873, the Small Business Fairness in Contracting Act, expanded the definition of contract bundling, primarily closing a loophole that excluded construction and other new work from bundling analyses. The legislation also raised the federal small business contracting goal from 23 percent to 30 percent and required overseas contracts to be counted when calculating this figure.

X. Regulations

The Committee held hearings and intervened on several regulations that place small businesses at a competitive disadvantage. On November 15, 2007, the Committee held a hearing entitled "Reducing the Regulatory Burden on Small Business." The Committee heard testimony from small business representatives of the transportation, health care and other industries as well as from an ad-

ministrative law expert. Witnesses discussed the federal regulatory burden on small businesses and how Congress can act to reduce it. Witnesses delivered testimony regarding the regulatory burdens imposed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Aviation Administration. The Subcommittee on Regulations, Health Care and Trade held a hearing on July 30, 2008, entitled "Regulatory Burdens on Small Firms: What Rules Need Reforms?" The hearing examined the adequacy of agency compliance with Section 610 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Hearings were also held on individual regulations and their impact on small firms. This included a hearing on July 18, 2007, entitled "Medicaid Drug Reimbursements: Are Cuts Bad Medicine for Small Businesses and Beneficiaries?" The Committee met to discuss the final rule promulgated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services which sets the average manufacturer price as the basis for certain prescription drug reimbursements to pharmacies. The hearing examined the impacts of the rule on small business retail pharmacies and Medicaid beneficiaries and whether the agency adequately complied with the Regulatory Flexibility Act in promulgating the rule.

The Subcommittee on Regulations, Health Care and Trade held a hearing on May 14, 2008, entitled "The Impact of CMS Regulations and Programs on Small Health Care Providers." The Subcommittee examined how CMS regulations and programs are affecting small firms. Witnesses discussed the Recovery Audit Contractor program and provider compensation issues. On May 22, 2008, the Committee held a hearing entitled "RESPA and Its Impact on Small Business." The Committee examined the proposed rule issued by the Department of Housing and Urban Development pursuant to the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act and its potential burdens on small businesses in the real estate industry.

The Committee held two hearings about the impact of Sarbanes-Oxley regulations on small firms. On June 5, 2007, the Committee convened a hearing entitled "Sarbanes-Oxley Section 404: Will the SEC and PCAOB's New Standards Lower Compliance Costs for Small Companies?" The hearing examined the new regulations issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) in light of the committee's ongoing concern that Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (SOX 404) places an undue regulatory burden on small firms. On December 12, 2007, the House Committee on Small Business convened a hearing entitled "Sarbanes-Oxley Section 404: New Evidence on the Costs for Small Businesses". The hearing examined recently released data on SOX 404 compliance costs being incurred by small companies and assessed the appropriateness of the SEC's compliance timeline for small businesses.

The Committee also considered whether regulations were in plain English. The Subcommittee on Contracting and Technology held a hearing on February 26, 2008, entitled "Plain Language in Paperwork—The Benefits to Small Business." The Subcommittee examined how the use of plain language by the federal government can reduce the paperwork burden on small businesses.

The Committee held a hearing regarding the recordkeeping and reporting requirements on small firms. On February 28, 2008 the Committee convened a hearing entitled "Improving the Paperwork Reduction Act for Small Businesses." The Committee examined whether the Paperwork Reduction Act is serving to minimize recordkeeping and reporting requirements on small businesses. The Committee discussed ways to improve the Paperwork Reduction Act to make it more effective in reducing paperwork burdens on small firms.

The Committee, in its role as a monitor, held a series of staff meetings with Federal agencies to discuss their obligations to small firms pursuant to the Regulatory Flexibility Act. The Committee examined the agencies' regulatory agendas, focusing on rules with disparate impacts on small businesses. Further, to ensure that agencies were considering small businesses in their rulemakings, the Committee issued several letters. On August 20, 2007, the Chairwoman submitted comments to Secretary of Agriculture Michael Johanns regarding mandatory country of origin labeling and minimizing recordkeeping burdens for small businesses. On February 23, 2007, the Chairwoman submitted comments to the Acting Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Leslie Norwalk, on the agency's lack of compliance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act on the proposed rule implementing the provisions of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 pertaining to prescription drugs under the Medicaid program (71 Fed. Reg. 77174).

On September 25, 2007, the Chairwoman sent a letter to Secretary of Homeland Security Chertoff on the agency's lack of compliance with RegFlex in promulgating the "No-Match" letter rule (72 Fed. Reg. 45611). On May 9, 2007, the Chairwoman sent a letter to Dennis Deziel of the Chemical Security Task Force at the Department of Homeland Security to request an extension of the time period for public comment on Appendix A to part 27 (Appendix A) of the interim final rule on chemical facilities (72 Fed. Reg. 17689). On August 3, 2007, the Chairwoman sent a letter to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Stephen Johnson, expressing the concerns of small businesses regarding a lack of consideration of their views in the rulemaking process on the proposed rule regarding control of emissions of nonroad spark-ignition engines (72 Fed. Reg. 28098). On May 1, 2008, the Chairwoman sent a letter to the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, Edmund S. Hawley, regarding the Certified Cargo Screening Program pilot and the fact small firms were not eligible to participate.

XI. Tax

The Committee held a wide range of hearings on tax simplification and relief proposals. This included a March 22, 2007 hearing on the 3 percent government withholding requirement. In an effort to close the tax gap, Sec. 511 of the 2005 TIPRA requires the government to withhold 3 percent on nearly all of its payments for goods or services. The hearing examined the impact of this provision on small businesses. On Wednesday, September 26, 2007 the Subcommittee on Contracting and Technology hearing entitled: "Small Business Renewable Energy Tax Incentive Possibilities".

The Subcommittee heard testimony from witnesses on how to encourage increased renewable energy investment through changes in the Internal Revenue Code. On October 3, 2007, the Committee held a hearing on the Internet Tax Moratorium, which currently bans taxes on Internet access, and prevented taxes on Internet transactions and was set to expire on November 1, 2007.

On February 14, 2008, the Committee held a hearing on Business Activity Taxes (BATs) and their impact on small businesses. BATs are taxes imposed by states on out of state businesses in the form of income taxes, royalty fees, or licensing fees for conducting business within a particular state's borders. The hearing highlighted the many problems small businesses face when attempting to conduct interstate sales. As a follow up to the hearing, the Committee sent a comment letter to the Judiciary Committee that detailed the substance of the hearing. The letter, signed by Chairwoman Velázquez and Ranking Member Chabot, indicated the concerns regarding BATs from the small business perspective while also stating that the Committee is willing to work with Judiciary on a matter of great importance to the small business community. On June 12, 2008, the Committee held a hearing entitled "Electronic Payments Tax Reporting—Another Tax Burden for Small Businesses." The hearing examined recent efforts to require information tax reporting on all credit card receipts of small businesses. Specifically, this hearing focused on the potential administrative and financial burdens that new reporting requirements could create for small businesses and financial institutions.

On April 10, 2008, the Committee held a hearing on how certain updates could be made to the Internal Revenue Code that could help small businesses stimulate the economy. The witnesses explained to the Committee that in many respects, the tax code has not adequately responded to the economy that exists in the 21st century, and this hinders their ability to grow and expand their business. Along with the hearing, the Committee released a report, which detailed seven ways the Internal Revenue Code should be immediately updated. Finally, the Committee introduced legislation, H.R. 6601, which will attempt to incorporate those recommendations into law.

On June 18, 2008, the Subcommittee on Finance and Tax held a hearing to discuss the business classification known as the S corporation and what potential changes should be made to their operating rules. The hearing reviewed which changes could be made to better help small businesses raise capital and improve impediments to growth. On July 24, 2008, the Committee held a hearing on the stimulus package enacted in February of 2008 and its impact on small businesses and the economy in general. The hearing also examined the current state of the economy, and whether another round of stimulus is needed, what form that should take, and small business' role in getting our nation back on track.

During the 110th Congress, the Committee also considered the issues pertaining to the tax gap. On April 26, 2007, the Committee held a hearing that examined the difference between the amount of taxes paid voluntarily and timely for a given year and the amount of taxes due. The hearing examined how efforts to close the tax gap could impact small businesses.

XII. Technology and Innovation

The Committee conducted oversight of technology policy issues and their impact on small firms. On March 7, 2007, the House Committee on Small Business convened a hearing entitled "Advancing the Innovation Agenda: The Perspective of the Technology and Telecommunications Industry." The hearing examined the technology and telecommunication industries' policy priorities for the 110th Congress and considered how the industries' policy priorities might impact small innovative companies. This included major technology policy issues as well as related workforce and education issues.

On May 9, 2007, the Subcommittee on Rural and Urban Entrepreneurship convened a hearing entitled "Maximizing the Value of Broadband in Rural Communities." The hearing examined the role broadband services can play in revitalizing rural economies. On June 25, 2008 at 10:00 the Subcommittee on Regulations, Health Care and Trade convened a hearing entitled "The Impact of Online Advertising on Small Firms." The hearing considered the benefits of on-line advertising to smaller firms and the increasing importance of on-line marketing strategies to many successful small businesses. The hearing also examined concerns that some small companies have raised about the challenge of driving traffic to their website.

On May 7, 2008, the Subcommittee on Contracting and Technology convened a hearing entitled "The DTV Transition and Small Businesses: Small Firms Contributing to a Big Change." The hearing reviewed the impact of the DTV transition on small broadcasters, small cable and video service providers and small electronics retailers. The Subcommittee also considered whether there are appropriate measures Congress should take in order to minimize the burden of the DTV transition on small firms, particularly those small firms serving rural areas. On March 29, 2007, the House Committee on Small Business convened a hearing entitled "The Impact of Proposed Patent Reform Legislation on Small Businesses." The hearing examined the cost and benefits of reforming the U.S. patent system and the potential impact on small businesses.

On June 28, 2007, the House Committee on Small Business convened a hearing entitled the "Assessing the Impact of the Copyright Royalty Board Decision to Increase Royalty Rates on Recording Artists and Webcasters." The hearing examined a recent decision by the Copyright Royalty Board (CRB) that increased substantially the royalty rates that Internet broadcasters or "webcasters" pay to compensate copyright owners for digital transmissions of their sound recordings. On October 10, 2007, the House Committee on Small Business convened a hearing entitled "The Impact of the 700 Megahertz Wireless Spectrum Auction on Small Business." The hearing examined the potential impact of the upcoming wireless spectrum auction's rules on entrepreneurs, small wireless communications providers and small businesses that are without access to reliable and affordable access to broadband services.

The Committee also considered the role of technology in increasing energy efficiency. On Wednesday, July 11, 2007, at 10:00 a.m., the Committee held a hearing entitled: "Small Businesses at the

Forefront of the Green Revolution: What More Needs to Be Done to Keep Them Here?" The hearing examined how small firms are playing a vital role in developing materials, and building "green" facilities in an ever changing global setting. These facilities and initiatives are designed to improve energy efficiency and use environmentally friendly production processes during building construction.

Finally, the Committee reviewed the role of financing to startups. This includes hearings and the consideration of legislation. The Committee on Small Business held a hearing on September 6, 2007, on H.R. 3567, which established an Angel Financing program for startup companies, as well as modernized the SBA's investment programs. In addition, the Committee held several hearings on the SBIR program, which is a vital source of funding for early stage firms. This included a hearing on January 29, 2008, that examined the importance of the SBIR program to American competitiveness as well as changes to it that may strengthen the initiative. On March 13, 2008, the Committee convened a legislative hearing to review legislation reauthorizing and modernizing the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program.

APPENDIX I—COMMITTEE LEGISLATION

PART A—COMMITTEE REPORTS

Reports filed by the Committee on Small Business with the House

110–104—Report to accompany H.R. 1332, a bill to amend the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act to improve the access to capital programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass. April 20, 2007

110–82—A report to accompany H.R. 1361, the Relief for Entrepreneurs: Coordination of objective and Values for Effective Recovery "Act of 2007 (The Recover Act) to amend the Small Business Act and improve the disaster relief programs of the Small Business Administration and for other purposes. March 30, 2007

110–111—(parts 1, 2, and 3) A report to accompany H.R. 1873 a bill to amend the Small Business Act to reauthorize programs and activities of the Small Business Administration relating to procurement and for other purposes. April 26, 2007

110–192—A report to accompany H.R. 2284 a bill that would amend the Small Business Act to expand and improve the assistance provided by Small Business Development Centers to Indian Tribal members, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians. June 15, 2007

110–193—A report to Accompany H.R. 2359 a bill to amend the Small Business Act and reauthorize programs to assist small business concerns and for other purposes. June 15, 2007

110–194—A report to accompany H.R. 2366 the SBA Veteran's Programs Act of 2007, a bill to reauthorize the veterans entrepreneurial development programs of the Small Business Administration and for other purposes. June 15, 2007

110–195—A report to accompany H.R. 2397, the Small Business Women's Programs Act of 2007, a bill to reauthorize the women's entrepreneurial development programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes. June 15, 2007

110–312—A report to accompany H.R. 2992, the SBA Trade Programs Act of 2007, a bill to improve trade programs, and for other purposes. September 4, 2007

110–313—A report to accompany H.R. 3020, the Microloan Amendments and Modernization Act, to amend the Small Business Act to improve the Microloan program and for other purposes. September 4, 2007

110–347—A report to accompany H.R. 3567, the Small Business Investment Expansion Act of 2007 which amends the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to expand opportunities for invest-

ments in small businesses, and for other purposes. September 25, 2007

110–400—A report to accompany H.R. 3867, the Small Business Contracting Program Improvements Act, to update and expand the procurement programs of the Small Business Administration and for other purposes. October 22, 2007

110–595 Part 1—A report to accompany H.R. 5819 the SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to improve the Small Business Innovation Research program and the Small Business Technology Transfer program and for other purposes. April 18, 2008

PART B—PUBLIC LAWS

This table lists measures that contained matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Small Business, which were enacted into law during the 110th Congress.

1. [110th] *H.R. 434*: An act to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through July 31, 2007, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: *Rep Chabot, Steve* [OH–1] (introduced 1/12/2007) *Cosponsors* (1)

Committees: House Small Business; Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Latest Major Action: Became Public Law No: 110–4

2. [110th] *H.R. 3206*: To provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through December 15, 2007, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: *Rep Velázquez, Nydia M.* [NY–12] (introduced 7/27/2007) *Cosponsors* (1)

Committees: House Small Business

Latest Major Action: Became Public Law No: 110–57

3. [110th] *H.R. 3221*: A bill to provide needed housing reform and for other purposes.

Sponsor: *Rep Pelosi, Nancy* [CA–8] (introduced 7/30/2007) *Cosponsors* (18)

Committees: House Energy and Commerce; House Education and Labor; House Foreign Affairs; House Small Business; House Science and Technology; House Agriculture; House Oversight and Government Reform; House Natural Resources; House Transportation and Infrastructure; House Armed Services

Latest Major Action: Became Public Law No: 110–289 [GPO: *Text*, *PDF*]

Note: Previously *H.R. 3221* was the New Direction for Energy Independence, National Security, and Consumer Protection Act. Omnibus energy legislation was enacted in *H.R. 6*, which became Public Law 110–140 on 12/19/2007.

4. [110th] *H.R. 4252*: To provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through May 23, 2008, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: *Rep Chabot, Steve* [OH–1] (introduced 12/4/2007) *Cosponsors* (None)

Committees: House Small Business

Latest Major Action: Became Public Law No: 110–136

5. [110th] *H.R. 4253*: To improve and expand small business assistance programs for veterans of the armed forces and military reservists, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: *Rep Altmire, Jason* [PA–4] (introduced 12/4/2007) *Cosponsors* (3)

Committees: House Small Business

Latest Major Action: Became Public Law No: 110–186

6. H.R.2419

Title: To provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: *Rep Peterson, Collin C.* [MN–7] (introduced 5/22/2007) *Cosponsors* (None)

Related Bills: *H. Res. 574*, *H. Res. 1189*, *H.J. Res. 88*, *H.R. 5957*, *H.R. 6124*, *S. 163*, *S. 2302*

Latest Major Action: Became Public Law No: 110–234

House Reports: *110–256* Part 1; Latest Conference Report: *110–627* (in Congressional Record *H3409–3700*)

Note: The House and Senate passed *H.R. 2419* over veto, enacting 14 of 15 farm bill titles into law. The trade title (title III) was inadvertently excluded from the enrolled bill. To remedy the situation, both chambers re-passed the farm bill conference agreement (including the trade title) as *H.R. 6124,* again over veto. Upon its enactment *H.R. 6124*, in section 4, repealed Public Law 110–234.

APPENDIX II—COMMITTEE PUBLICATIONS

PART A—COMMITTEE HEARINGS

HEARINGS

January 2007

January 31, 2007
Full Committee Organizational Meeting

February 2007

February 8, 2007
Full Committee Hearing on: "The Small Business Administration's Budget for Fiscal Year 2008."
February 14, 2007
Full Committee Hearing on: "The Small Business Administration's Response to the 2005 Gulf Coast Hurricanes."

March 2007

March 1, 2007
Full Committee Hearing on: "Increasing Access to Capital for Our Nation's Small Businesses."
March 7, 2007
Full Committee Hearing on: "Advancing the Innovation Agenda: The Perspective of the Technology and Telecommunications Industry."
March 8, 2007
Full Committee Legislative Hearing on: "Disaster Relief and Access to Capital."
March 14, 2007
Full Committee Hearing on: "Challenges and Solutions to Health Insurance Coverage for Small Businesses."
March 21, 2007
Subcommittee on Contracting and Technology Hearing on: "Implementation of the Women's Procurement Program and Federal Government Efforts in Contracting with Women-Owned Businesses."
March 22, 2007
Full Committee hearing on: "The New Hidden Tax on Small Business, on 3% Tax Withholding."
March 28, 2007
Subcommittee on Regulations, Health Care & Trade hearing on: "The Value of Health IT to Solo and Small Medical Practices."
March 29, 2007
Full Committee Hearing on: "The Impact of Proposed Patent Reform Legislation on Small Businesses."

April 2007

April 11, 2007
Full Committee Field Hearing on: "The Impact of New Market Tax Credits, the Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) Program, and 504 Program on Urban Communities." Cincinnati, OH
April 12, 2007
Full Committee Field Hearing: "Participation of Small Businesses in Hurricane Katrina Recovery." New Orleans, LA
April 19, 2007
Full Committee Hearing on: "Expanding Small Businesses' Access to Federal Contracts."
April 26, 2007
Full Committee Hearing on: "Closing the Tax Gap Without Creating Burdens for Small Businesses."

May 2007

May 2, 2007
Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, Hearing on: "Is the Veterans Corporation Prepared to Provide Entrepreneurial Development Assistance to Service Men and Women Returning From Iraq & Afghanistan?"
May 3, 2007
Full Committee Hearing on: "The Impacts of Renewable Energy Production on Small Businesses in Rural America."
May 9, 2007
Subcommittee on Rural & Urban Entrepreneurship Hearing on: "Maximizing the Value of Broadband Services to Rural Communities."
May 10, 2007
Full Committee Hearing on: "Immigration Policies and Their Impact on Small Business."
May 16, 2007
Full Committee Legislative Hearing on: "Energy, Women's Business Centers, Veterans' Business, and Entrepreneurial Development."
May 17, 2007
Full Committee Hearing on: "Liability Reform and Small Business."
May 24, 2007
Full Committee Hearing on: "Expanding Small Business Health Insurance Coverage Using the Private Reinsurance Market."

June 2007

June 5, 2007
Full Committee Hearing on: "Sarbanes-Oxley Section 404: Will the SEC's and PCAOB's New Standards Lower Compliance Costs for Small Companies?"
June 6, 2007
Subcommittee on Finance and Tax Hearing on: "Data Security: Small Business Perspectives."
June 7, 2007
Full Committee Hearing on: "Family Farmer and Rural Small Business Priorities for the 2007 Farm Bill."
June 13, 2007

Full Committee Hearing on: "U.S. Trade Policy and Small Business."

June 14, 2007

Full Committee Hearing on: "The SBA's Microloan Program."

June 20, 2007

Subcommittee on Contracting and Technology Hearing on: "Meeting the Workforce Demands of Small Bio-Energy Businesses."

June 21, 2007

Full Committee Hearing on: "The SBA's Investment Programs."

June 28, 2007

Full Committee Hearing on: "Assessing the Impact of the Copyright Royalty Board Decision to Increase Royalty Rates on Recording Artists and Webcasters."

July 2007

July 11

Full Committee Hearing on: "Small Businesses at the Forefront of the Green Revolution: What More Needs to Be Done to Keep Them Here?"

July 12

Full Committee Legislative Hearing to: "Improve the SBA's Microloan and Trade Programs."

July 18

Full Committee Hearing on: "Medicaid Drug Reimbursements: Are Cuts Bad Medicine for Small Businesses and Beneficiaries?"

July 23

Full Committee Field Hearing on: "Challenges Facing Women Small Business Owners." Philadelphia, PA.

July 25

Full Committee Hearing on: "Competitive Bidding for Clinical Lab Services: Where's It Heading and What Small Businesses Can Expect."

August 2007

August 1

Subcommittee on Regulations, Health Care and Trade Hearing on: "Ensuring Prompt Payment for Small Health Care Providers."

August 2

Full Committee Hearing on: "Disaster Planning and Recovery: Are We Ready for Another Katrina?"

August 23

Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight Field Hearing on: "The SBA's Response to the July 5 Floods in Beaver County, Pennsylvania." Aliquippa, PA

August 30

Subcommittee on Rural and Urban Entrepreneurship Field Hearing on: "How Can Small Businesses Best Address the Healthcare Needs of Their Employees?" Asheville, NC

August 31

Full Committee Field Hearing on: "The Cost and Availability of Energy and the Effect on Small Business." Johnson City, TN

September 2007

September 6, 2007

Full Committee Hearing on: "The Small Business Administration's Investment and Surety Bond Programs."

September 19, 2007

Full Committee Hearing on: "The Small Business Administration's Contracting Programs."

September 26, 2007

Subcommittee on Contracting and Technology Hearing on: "Small Business Renewable Energy Tax Incentive Possibilities."

September 27, 2007

Full Committee Hearing on: "Legislation to Provide Funding Levels."

October 2007

October 3, 2007

Full Committee Hearing on: "The Internet Tax Moratorium: The Potential Negative Impacts on Small Businesses of Allowing Moratorium to Expire."

October 4, 2007

Full Committee Legislative Hearing on: "The Small Business Administration's Contracting Programs."

October 10, 2007

Full Committee Hearing on: "The Impact of the 700 Megahertz Wireless Spectrum Auction on Small Business."

October 17, 2007

Full Committee Hearing on: "Small Business Energy Priorities."

October 24, 2007

Subcommittee on Finance and Tax Hearing on: "Pension Parity: Addressing the Inequities between Retirement Plan Options for Small and Large Businesses."

October 25, 2007

Full Committee Hearing on: "Health Insurer Consolidation—The Impact on Small Business."

October 31, 2007

Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight Hearing on: "Competitive Bidding for Durable Medical Equipment: Will Small Suppliers Be Able to Compete?"

November 2007

November 1, 2007

Full Committee Hearing on: "Evaluating the Impact of Pending Free Trade Agreements Upon U.S. Small Businesses."

November 7, 2007

Full Committee Hearing on: "The State of the Small Business Economy."

November 8, 2007

Subcommittee on Regulations, Health Care and Trade Hearing on: "Medicare's Reimbursement Cuts: The Potential Impact on Solo and Small Group Practitioners and the Businesses they Run."

November 14, 2007

Subcommittee on Rural and Urban Entrepreneurship Hearing on: "Program Harmonization in Rural America—How the Small Business Administration (SBA) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Can Work Together to Better Serve Small Businesses."

November 15, 2007
Full Committee Hearing on: "Reducing the Regulatory Burden on Small Business: Improving the Regulatory Flexibility Act."

December 2007

December 6, 2007
Full Committee Legislative Hearing to: "Improve the RegFlex Act."
December 12, 2007
Full Committee Hearing on: "Sarbanes-Oxley Section 404: New Evidence on the Costs for Small Businesses."

January 2008

January 16, 2008
Full Committee Hearing on: "The SBA's Progress in Implementing the Women's Procurement Program."
January 17, 2008
Full Committee Hearing on: "Oversight of the U.S. Export-Import Bank's Implementation of its Small Business Mandate."
January 23, 2008
Full Committee Hearing on: Health Care: "Limited Health Care Options for Small Businesses in the Small Group Market."
January 29, 2008
Full Committee Hearing on: "SBIR: America's National Technology Development Incubator."

February 2008

February 7, 2008
Full Committee Hearing on: "The Small Business Administration's Budget for Fiscal Year 2009."
February 14, 2008
Full Committee Hearing on: "Business Activity Taxes and Their Impact on Small Businesses."
February 13, 2008:
Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight hearing on: "SBIR: Advancing Medical Breakthroughs."
February 26, 2008:
Subcommittee on Contracting and Technology hearing on: "Plain Language in Paperwork—The Benefits to Small Business."
February 26, 2008:
Full Committee Hearing on: "State Strategies to Expand Health Insurance Coverage for Small Businesses."
February 28, 2008:
Full Committee Hearing on: "Improving the Paperwork Reduction Act For Small Businesses."

March 2008

March 5, 2008
Subcommittee on Finance and Tax Hearing on: "Improving the SBA's Access to Capital Programs for Our Nation's Small Businesses."
March 6, 2008
Full Committee Hearing on: "Are New Procurement Methods Beneficial to Small Business Contractors?"

March 12, 2008
Subcommittee on Rural and Urban Entrepreneurship Hearing on: "Oversight of the Entrepreneurial Development Programs Implemented By the Small Business Administration and National Veterans Business Development Corporation."
March 13, 2008
Full Committee Legislative Hearing to: "Reauthorize the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program."
March 25, 2008
Full Committee Field Hearing on: "The Impact Of The 2006–2007 Drought on Georgia's Economy."

April 2008

April 3, 2008
Full Committee hearing on: "The Role of Credit Cards in Small Business Financing."
April 9, 2008
Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight hearing on: "The Impact of Increasing Gas Prices on Small Businesses."
April 10, 2008
Full Committee hearing on: "Modernizing the Tax Code: Updating the Internal Revenue Code to Help Small Businesses Stimulate the Economy."
April 16, 2008
Subcommittee on Contracting and Technology hearing on: "Ensuring Small Businesses Have Fair Access to Federal Contracts."
April 17, 2008
Full Committee hearing on: "Maintaining Public Lands for Hunting, Fishing, Ranching and Small Businesses."
April 23, 2008
Subcommittee on Regulations, Health Care and Trade hearing on: "Minority and Hispanic Participation in the Federal Workforce and the Impact on the Small Business Community."
April 24, 2008
Full Committee hearing on: "The Role of Small Businesses in Stimulating the Economy."
April 30, 2008
Subcommittee on Finance and Tax hearing on: "The Effect of the Credit Crunch on Small Business Access to Capital."

May 2008

May 1, 2008
Full Committee hearing on: "Rail Transportation Access for Small Businesses and Family Farmers."
May 7, 2008
Subcommittee on Contracting and Technology hearing on: "The DTV Transition and Small Businesses: Small Firms Contributing to a Big Change."
May 8, 2008
Full Committee hearing on: "Medicare Physician Fee Cuts: Can Small Practices Survive."
May 14, 2008

Subcommittee on Regulations, Health Care and Trade hearing on: "The Impact of CMS Regulations and Programs on Small Health Care Providers."

May 15, 2008

Full Committee hearing on: "Food Prices and Small Businesses."

May 21, 2008

Subcommittee on Rural and Urban Entrepreneurship hearing on: "Competitive Bidding for Durable Medical Equipment."

May 22, 2008

Full Committee hearing on: "RESPA and Its Impact on Small Business."

June 2008

June 5, 2008

Full Committee hearing on: "The Housing Crisis Identifying Tax Incentives to Stimulate the Economy."

June 11, 2008

Subcommittee on Rural and Urban Entrepreneurship hearing on: "Second Generation Biofuels: The New Frontier for Small Businesses."

June 12, 2008

Full Committee hearing on: "Electronic Payments Tax Reporting: Another Tax Burden for Small Businesses."

June 18, 2008

Subcommittee on Finance and Tax hearing on: "S-Corps: Recommended Reforms That Promote Parity, Growth and Development for Small Businesses."

June 19, 2008

Full Committee hearing on: "Small Business Exports in the Current Economic Climate."

June 25, 2008

Subcommittee on Regulations, Health Care and Trade hearing on: "The Impact of Online Advertising on Small Firms."

June 26, 2008

Full Committee hearing on: "Grounded: How the Air Transportation Crisis Is Hurting Entrepreneurs and the Economy."

July 2008

July 10, 2008

Full Committee hearing on: "The Role of Green Technologies in Spurring Economic Growth."

July 16, 2008

Subcommittee on Contracting & Technology hearing on: "Ensuring Continuity of Care for Veteran Amputees: The Role of Small Prosthetic Practices."

July 17, 2008

Full Committee hearing on: "Small Business Administration's (SBA) Contracting Programs and Recent GAO Examination of Programs."

July 23, 2008

Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight hearing on: "The Impact of Predators in Long-Term Care on Small Business Operators."

July 24, 2008

Full Committee hearing on: "Economic Stimulus for Small Business: A Look Back and Assessing Need for Additional Relief."

July 30, 2008

Subcommittee on Regulations, Health Care and Trade hearing on: "Regulatory Burdens on Small Firms: What Rules Need Reform?"

July 31, 2008

Full Committee hearing on: "Cost and Confidentiality: The Unforeseen Challenges of Electronic Health Records in Small Specialty Practices."

September 2008

September 11, 2008

Full Committee hearing on: "Examining Expiring Tax Incentives and the Needs of Small Businesses."

September 17, 2008

Subcommittee on Finance and Tax hearing on: "Disaster Savings Accounts: Protections for Small Businesses during a Disaster."

September 18, 2008

Full Committee hearing on: "Making Health Care Reform Work for Small Business."

September 24, 2008

Subcommittee on Contracting and Technology hearing on: "Small Business Recovery from the Midwest Disasters of 2008."

September 25, 2008

Full Committee hearing on: "Small Business Competition Policy: Are Markets Open for Entrepreneurs?"

October 2008

October 28, 2008

Full Committee hearing on: "Creating Opportunities for Small Businesses in an Economic Recovery."

November 2008

November 20, 2008

Full Committee hearing on: "Review of Recent Federal Efforts to Improve Credit Conditions for Small Businesses."

December 2008

December 8, 2008

Subcommittee on Rural and Urban Entrepreneurship, North Carolina Field hearing on: "Examining the Effect of Industrial Contamination on Small Businesses and Their Surrounding Communities, as Well as Potential Solutions."

Total: 116

Full Committee: 66

Subcommittee: 33

Field Hearings: 8

PART B—COMMITTEE PRINTS

There are no committee prints in this Congress.

○