

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time on this important bill. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, just in closing, I yield myself such time as I may consume. This is a good, bipartisan bill. It was crafted by Senators DODD and SHELBY in consultation with Mr. WATT and Mr. BACHUS. It passed the Senate last week under unanimous consent.

Although we're in the middle of hurricane season and in a tough conflict in Afghanistan, these powers will expire at midnight 1 week from today if we do not reauthorize them. So I hope that all Members will support this legislation and send it to the President quickly so he can sign it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I want to thank my colleague for his statement and especially remind my colleagues of the urgency of this matter, because this important authorization expires, unless we renew it, at the end of this month. So it's critically important that we pass this bill today.

In a democracy there's always a very delicate balance between taking the time to authorize things and delegating authority to an administration for emergency kinds of situations. I just want to assure my colleagues in the House that the Senate and the administration has scrubbed this bill vigorously to try to find the appropriate balance between giving the administration and folks other than those of us in Congress emergency authority to do things without allowing that authority to be abused.

We saw recently in the responses that the Federal Reserve had to take to the economic downturn last year and this year—we realized that there was some emergency authority in a remote 1933 bill that the Federal Reserve had to take certain steps. It made us a lot more aware of that delicate balance that we are always walking between giving Federal Government agencies the authority to act in emergency circumstances and going through the deliberative process that's needed for Congress to authorize these kind of emergency actions.

So our Financial Services Committee is very aware of walking that delicate balance and the necessity for doing so. And to the extent that this bill could be controversial, it would be in that area of what is that delicate balance. I think my colleagues need to be reassured that we have been very cognizant of walking that balance and trying to find the right levers to make sure that this authority can be used only in emergencies that everyone would recognize as an emergency and not be abused and used without appropriate checks and balances being exercised.

With that, I urge my colleagues to support this extremely important piece of legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1677.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION EXTENSION

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3614) to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3614

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

SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAMS UNDER THE SMALL BUSINESS ACT AND THE SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to extend temporarily certain authorities of the Small Business Administration”, approved October 10, 2006 (Public Law 109-316; 120 Stat. 1742), as most recently amended by section 1 of Public Law 111-43 (123 Stat. 1965), is amended by striking “September 30, 2009” each place it appears and inserting “October 31, 2009”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on September 29, 2009.

SEC. 2. BUSINESS STABILIZATION PROGRAM.

Section 506(c) of title V of division A of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5) is amended by striking “but shall not include” and all that follows through “enactment of this Act”.

SEC. 3. NEW MARKETS VENTURE CAPITAL COMPANY INVESTMENT LIMITATIONS.

Section 355 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 689d) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) INVESTMENT LIMITATIONS.—A New Markets Venture Capital company that is receiving a grant under section 358 may not issue debentures guaranteed by the Administrator for any 1 company in an aggregate amount that is more than 10 percent of the sum of—

“(1) the private capital of the New Markets Venture Capital company; and

“(2) the total amount of leverage projected by the New Markets Venture Capital company in the business plan of the New Markets Venture Capital company in effect on the date on which the Administrator granted final approval to operate as a New Markets Venture Capital company under section 354(e).”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. The legislation before us will keep a number of vital programs at the Small Business Administration functioning. This will give us time to complete our work with the Senate and fully reauthorize these measures, which are critical for our Nation's entrepreneurs.

All of us recognize the importance of small businesses to our recovery. Since January, this Congress has taken several steps to help small firms. Entrepreneurs will see \$30 billion in new contracting opportunities from the Recovery Act.

□ 1045

The Recovery Act is expected to yield \$21 billion in new lending and investment for small firms. Since the Recovery Act passed, the SBA has approved \$7.3 billion in recovery loans and supported almost \$10 billion in small business lending. This extension will not only keep important programs at the SBA running; it will also make some important changes to improve access to capital for small firms.

The America's Recovery Capital program in the Recovery Act provides short-term capital for businesses. To date, the ARC loan program has helped 1,600 firms stay afloat with interest-free loans.

Currently, ARC loans cannot be used to pay down existing government-guaranteed debts. By letting businesses use ARC loans for that purpose, this bill will open the program to even more firms, regardless of their previous financing decisions. This will open up \$360 million in lending capital to help stressed small businesses that have 7(a) loans. Through the ARC program, these firms will receive nearly \$6,000 per month, allowing them to redirect their cash flow into sustaining their operations. The American Bankers Association and the Independent Community Bankers of America strongly support this provision.

As SBA implements this change, it should also revisit other areas where it can improve the program. A top priority for small businesses is always reducing their paperwork burden.

Mr. Speaker, this is the paperwork required to apply for an ARC loan, and it doesn't even include the documentation that a borrower must submit as part of their application. Clearly, applying for these loans is complex. The SBA should streamline its application and approval processes. Businesses that apply for these loans do so because they need a lifeline, now. The SBA should make the process fast and simple.

Another challenge at the agency is the projected default rates for the program, which directly affects the availability of capital. Unfortunately, the SBA assumed that businesses receiving ARC loans will default more than businesses impacted by Hurricane Katrina. That calculation doesn't make sense, and it has limited the loans' availability. By developing a subsidy model that better reflects reality, the SBA could ensure more funding goes to businesses instead of being held in reserve to cover defaults that probably won't happen.

Going forward, we need to ensure that the recovery reaches everybody, especially low-income communities. Obviously, these areas have been hit the hardest by the recession, but they also hold the highest potential for economic growth. An important program for accomplishing that goal is the New Market Venture Capital program. This program targets capital to the smallest businesses in economically depressed areas. However, until now the program limited the amount of capital an entrepreneur can obtain through New Market companies. This bill simplifies the limits so that more capital will flow to disadvantaged businesses. Helping these businesses promotes hope and opportunity in low-income areas and further fosters economic recovery.

Right now access to capital remains the biggest challenge facing small firms. Making this minor adjustments to the ARC program and the New Market initiative will improve access to capital for small businesses when they need it most.

In coming weeks, the committee will continue working to update the SBA's programs. In the meantime, this legislation extends these initiatives and makes two critical changes to help small businesses. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the chairwoman's request to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3614.

The bill is very simple. It extends the authorization of all programs authorized by the Small Business Act, the Small Business Investment Act, and any program operated by the Small Business Administration for which Congress has already appropriated the funds. The bill also makes a minor change to America's Recovery Capital, or ARC, loan program. This extension will last until October 31, 2009.

This extension is necessary because authorization for various programs operated by the SBA ceases on September 30, 2009. The committee has worked in a bipartisan fashion over the past two Congresses and reported out a number of bills to address programs operated by the SBA. Despite the efforts of the House, the extension passed earlier this year by both bodies of Congress is going to expire before the legislative process can run its course.

The work needed to help America's entrepreneurs revitalize the economy simply cannot be accomplished within the timeframe outlined in the current legislation. Without enactment of this extension, a number of vital programs that the SBA operates will cease to function. Given the importance that small businesses play and will continue to play in the revitalization of the American economy, we cannot allow the SBA authorization to run out.

This legislation also makes a minor change to the ARC loan program. When the ARC loan program was instituted, the Congressional Budget Office indicated that it would create a PAYGO issue should the ARC loans be available to businesses to pay down debt on a 7(a) loan. Accordingly, we stipulated that ARC loans could not be used in this manner. Recently, the CBO stated that allowing such an instance would not create these budgetary concerns and that it would be allowable for businesses to pay down debt on a 7(a) loan with ARC funds. This is a minor change that will enable small businesses with both an ARC loan and a 7(a) loan to use the funding they qualify for in a manner that suits them best, and I applaud this change and urge its adoption.

Enactment of this legislation will enable the House and Senate to continue to work in a diligent manner to address necessary changes to SBA programs. I urge all my colleagues to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3614.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE).

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this bill, although I think it's critically important that we are honest about what this Congress is doing for small businesses, or perhaps it would be better to say not doing.

We can't survive when the economy is good without small businesses, and we sure as heck cannot recover without small businesses when the economy is bad. Yet despite programs Congress has authorized and extended, I hear every day from small businesses in and around my district that banks, even banks they've dealt with for many years, are now refusing to lend and continuing to refuse to lend.

I was extremely frustrated when the \$700 billion bank bailout did not free up bank funds for small businesses, and Americans were angrier still to find out that only 1 percent of the \$800 billion stimulus bill that the President signed was directed towards small businesses. But that actually pales in comparison to the frustration felt when we hear that the little bit of stimulus money that did go to SBA isn't flowing through to small businesses.

To put this into perspective, 4 months ago the SBA began a program to assist auto dealers in obtaining

floor-plan financing for their inventories. An SBA official estimated that 4,000 loans would be guaranteed by the government by October 1. As of the second week in September, only three, t-h-r-e-e, three, had been guaranteed and not a single one of those had closed.

Worse yet, Mr. Speaker, if we proceed with the proposed health care legislation in the House, 42 percent of small business income will face higher tax rates. This Congress and the Obama administration must address the fact that, as we have seen with the President's housing programs, even very strong incentives have not led to increased lending. Patting ourselves on the back for extending programs that don't work may feel good for a while, but it's not going to help the small business owners in any Member of Congress's district meet payroll.

Whether it's regulatory capital requirements or dealing with red tape to get the guarantees, the banks are not lending. That needs fixing immediately.

Instead of spending time recognizing the importance of wild horse adoption or congratulating sports teams, Congress needs to dig in and do the serious, urgent work that the people of America expect. That, Mr. Speaker, is our job.

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

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, again, this is a very simple reauthorization.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, if our economy is going to recover, then America's entrepreneurs will need to lead the way. Many of the SBA's programs, which will help small businesses with specialized training or access to capital, need to be updated. That is why the House has passed bills to update the SBA's various programs and why they were approved with bipartisan support.

However, while we continue working with our Senate colleagues to finish these bills, we also need to give the SBA the authority to continue functioning.

The legislation before us will extend the SBA programs until the end of October. This provides the appropriate amount of time to continue our legislative work while keeping key services at the SBA up and running. Equally important, this bill makes two small, yet significant, changes to the ARC loan program and the New Markets Venture Capital program. These changes will further help small businesses access capital when they need it most.

This is a good bill for small businesses. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3614.

Small businesses grow our economy through innovation, and the SBIR and STTR

programs help companies develop cutting edge technologies for the government and for the private sector. However, the SBIR and STTR programs expire at the end of this month. H.R. 3614 temporarily extends the authorization of these programs while we work to finalize reauthorization efforts.

The House and Senate both passed legislation earlier this year to reauthorize these programs. We have been working to find common ground on areas we disagree on, and while we still have yet to reach a final agreement—we all have the same goal: to reauthorize important programs that drive small business.

As we work to get our economy back on track, small, high tech companies will play an important role creating good paying jobs. It is important that SBIR and STTR continue to provide critical funds for research at small businesses. It is also important that these programs reflect the innovation economy of 2009. I look forward to continue working with the House Small Business Committee and the Senate to reauthorize this program.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3614.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

EXTENDING CONDOLENCES TO TAIWAN ON TYPHOON

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 733) expressing condolences to the people and government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in the aftermath of the devastating typhoon that struck the central and southern regions of the island on August 8, 2009, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 733

Whereas Typhoon Morakot hit the island of Taiwan on August 8, 2009, dropping approximately 2.6 meters or 102 inches of rain, more than half the average annual rainfall in many places;

Whereas central and southern Taiwan were hardest hit by the storm;

Whereas mudslides overwhelmed some places in south Taiwan, including the village of Hsiaolin, where 247 homes were lost;

Whereas floods or mudslides damaged more than 191,936 homes;

Whereas infrastructure and farm losses alone have totaled approximately \$46,500,000 in Taiwanese dollars to date;

Whereas the devastation left by Typhoon Morakot is the worst the island has seen in 50 years;

Whereas as of late August 2009, the official death toll reached 602 with an additional 81 missing, where many of those are believed to be buried by mud in the village of Hsiaolin, which was almost completely covered in a mudslide triggered by several days of extremely heavy rainfall;

Whereas beginning on August 22, 2009, Taiwan held a three-day mourning period in memory of those who were killed in mudslides and floods after Typhoon Morakot;

Whereas the United States assisted efforts by providing Marine Corps C-130 aircraft from Marine Corps Air Station Futenma on Okinawa to deliver humanitarian relief supplies in addition to KC-130 aircraft and MH 53 and MH 60 helicopters from strategic United States bases located in Japan;

Whereas on March 24, 2009, the House of Representatives passed H. Con. Res. 55 to mark the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act (Public Law 96-8), codifying in law the basis for continued commercial, cultural, and other relations between the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan); and

Whereas Taiwan has been a steadfast ally of the United States and a responsible and compassionate member of the world community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) mourns the terrible loss of life caused by Typhoon Morakot that occurred on August 8, 2009, in Taiwan;

(2) expresses its deepest condolences to the families of the many victims;

(3) recognizes the deep ties between the United States and Taiwan and expresses continued solidarity with its people during this time of crisis; and

(4) expresses gratitude to the people of the United States who have generously supported those humanitarian aid agencies working to assist the people of Taiwan in this time of need.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

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GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This resolution expresses condolences to the victims of the devastating typhoon that struck Taiwan on August 8, 2009. I would like to thank my good friend, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for sponsoring this important resolution that allows the House to voice its support for Taiwan and its people.

Typhoon Morakot hit Taiwan on August 8 and deluged the island with over 8 feet of rain. The loss of life and destruction of property in the wake of

the typhoon has been devastating and is the worst that Taiwan has seen in 50 years. The central and southeastern parts of Taiwan were hardest hit by the storm, with floods and mudslides damaging almost 200,000 homes. The official death toll is over 600, and there are still 81 people missing.

The United States assisted recovery efforts in Taiwan by providing humanitarian relief supplies and heavy-lift helicopters to the disaster areas.

I want to extend my deepest condolences to all of the families that lost loved ones caused by the typhoon and to those who have lost their homes. The people of the United States stand in solidarity with the Taiwanese people as they undertake the painstaking process of recovery, and we stand ready to advocate further assistance for the recovery process if needed.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I also rise in strong support of this resolution addressing the recent natural disaster of typhoon winds and mudslides that struck Taiwan. This resolution expresses our sincere condolences to our Taiwanese friends who lost loved ones, homes, and businesses due to the devastation which struck the island on August 8. At least 602 people were killed, 81 others are missing, and over 190,000 homes were damaged or destroyed in the fury of the storm and in the aftermath of mudslides. Over 100 inches of rain turned streams into raging rivers which destroyed everything in their path. Whole villages were inundated by floodwaters and mud.

But, Mr. Speaker, the people of the United States feel those sympathies even more deeply today at a time when so many of our fellow Americans are suffering from tragic and deadly flooding in Georgia and Tennessee, and our deepest condolences go to our neighbors in the South.

On Taiwan, it is noteworthy that for the first time since official ties with Taiwan were severed in 1979, the United States dispatched humanitarian relief to the island to aid the victims of the typhoon. In response to this critical emergency for our Taiwan friends, the U.S. Marine Corps, based in Okinawa, sent two C-130s to southern Taiwan to deliver relief supplies. The amphibious transport ship USS *Denver* was also dispatched to the area and provided helicopters to engage in humanitarian operations as well. Thus, these deeply tragic circumstances served as a means to demonstrate the enduring, the unbreakable ties which exist between the people of the United States and the people of Taiwan.

In this 30th anniversary year of the Taiwan Relations Act, Mr. Speaker, the United States can do no less than to continue to aid the people of Taiwan in their hour of need. I urge all of my