

MORNING BUSINESS

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE IDAHO SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, with my Idaho congressional delegation colleagues Senator JIM RISCH and Representatives MIKE SIMPSON and RUSS FULCHER, I congratulate the Idaho Small Business Development Center, SBDC, for 40 years of advancing small business success in the Gem State.

Statewide expansion, broadened infrastructure, and modernized assistance have been hallmarks of the Idaho SBDC's 40 years of support for Idaho small businesses. In 1986, Idaho SBDC opened at Boise State University with the assistance of the U.S. Small Business Administration. Over the next 5 years, Idaho SBDC regional centers expanded statewide to provide critical counseling services for budding entrepreneurs across Idaho's 44 counties. The Idaho SBDC's reach was extended further in 2003 with the opening of the TECenter in Nampa to support startups and the Boise Business Accelerator opening in 2008. Then, amid the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Idaho SBDC reports its response helped preserve more than 2,600 Idaho jobs. In the years since, Idaho SBDC has provided significant economic support, celebrating \$58.8 million in sales growth for its clients in 2024 alone.

The centers offer extensive services to help Idaho small businesses succeed. These services include customized training and business planning and expansion. SBDC staff also help with the development of marketing and advertising plans, providing market research, cost analysis, and organizational development. Securing capital is another important aspect of starting and maintaining a business, and staff also assist with loan information for any stage of a business, cash flow projections and analysis, and the purchase or sale of a business. Furthermore, the Idaho SBDC assists with more specialized needs beyond its core support. These focused services include assistance with complying with environmental regulations, navigating government contracting, cyber security, selling into foreign markets, and more.

The Idaho SBDC has leveraged its assistance to Idaho businesses into significant economic impacts. From 1986-2026, Idaho SBDC indicates the center's support has resulted in \$984 million in capital formation and a sales increase of \$1.29 billion. Importantly, since its start, Idaho SBDC has helped start 2,149 businesses and helped create 18,482 jobs. The wide range of businesses Idaho SBDC has assisted reflects the diversity of our great State. Specialty shops, restaurants, bakeries, manufacturers, and so much more are among the Idaho SBDC's success stories. The

first page of Idaho SBDC's success highlights on its website illustrates its far-reaching assistance to a specialized drilling company, law firm, irrigation systems company, fish farm-processor, rare bookstore, and firearms training range.

We have been proud to support this important work by advocating for pro-growth policies that help small businesses hire, invest, and innovate. This includes many of the tax provisions made permanent in the Working Families Tax Cut Act, along with a resounding push for regulatory relief from costly requirements placed on businesses of all sizes by the Federal Government.

Former President Ronald Reagan's reflections in 1983 about the central role of small businesses reinforce the importance of Idaho SBDC's work: "America is small business . . . Too often, entrepreneurs are forgotten heroes. We rarely hear about them. But look into the heart of America, and you'll see them. They're the owners of that store down the street, the faithfuls who support our churches, schools, and communities, the brave people everywhere who produce our goods, feed a hungry world, and keep our homes and families warm while they invest in the future to build a better America."

Thank you to the Idaho Small Business Development Center for your steady work to help small businesses across Idaho build strong foundations, innovate, and grow. We all benefit from these local engines that not only provide jobs in communities across our State, but also back countless important local efforts. We wish you well on this SBDC Day, as we express our gratitude for your decades of providing trusted counsel, resources, and support for these great American assets.●

REMEMBERING RYAN WHITEHOUSE

• Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I come to the floor to honor and commemorate a man whose service to our State and Nation was extraordinary. Ryan Whitehouse was the director of national legislation for Illinois Farm Bureau and advocated relentlessly for Illinois' farmers and rural communities across the Nation for over 12 years. Ryan unexpectedly passed away late last year.

Agriculture is a critical part of Illinois' economy, culture, and identity, and the organizations that represent our farmers on the national stage, like Illinois Farm Bureau, have no easy job. But Ryan made it look easy. He had a way of bringing people together, and I looked forward to every interaction I had with him, not only for my conversations with him, but knowing that he would be introducing me to even more of our State's best-in-the-world farmers. Ryan has touched the lives of so many people, not only in Illinois, but around the country.

Ryan was kind, well respected, and a strong leader who gave over a decade of his life to the tireless work of advocating for the best interests of our farmers and donated his free time to fighting against childhood cancer as part of multiple fundraising event boards for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. My staff and I had developed a strong personal and working relationship with him and will greatly miss his guidance and friendship.

To Ryan's family and friends, I have no words to ease the pain of this profound loss, but I hope you find some comfort in knowing how deeply admired Ryan was. His absence is strongly felt here on Capitol Hill, all over Illinois, and across the country. Ryan, from Galena to Cairo and Quincy to Danville, your efforts to make people's lives better have made a substantial impact.

Illinois and the United States are stronger because of you, and your endlessly kind and caring presence will be dearly missed.●

RECOGNIZING SUNSET SCOOPS

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to honor Sunset Scoops of Shelby County, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded in April 2025 by Jeremy and Tina Schechinger, Sunset Scoops is a small, family-owned business rooted in a passion for service and its community. Inspired by a desire to create a welcoming and fun environment for their four children and neighbors, the Schechingers opened Sunset Scoops in downtown Harlan as a gathering place where residents could connect and enjoy a fun treat together. Tina, a physician by day and a proud "scooperista" by night, drew inspiration from memories of working at a local cookie shop as a teenager and the joy that comes from creating special moments for others. Her vision for Sunset Scoops is a product of that lifelong dream, offering a space where families can make memories just as Tina once did.

Tina chose the name Sunset Scoops because she wanted to provide Harlan with a place open past sunset, giving people the opportunity to enjoy themselves after work or a movie, something rare in a small town. Since opening its doors, the business has embraced its role as a community gathering space by hosting seasonal celebrations and participating in local events that bring families and neighbors together. Recently, the shop offered a "12 Days of Ice Cream" box set for Christmas and hosted a New Year's party for Harlan to celebrate as a community. The shop also provides a variety of board games, giving families and friends another way to enjoy time together.

Today, Sunset Scoops operates as a local ice cream shop offering a wide variety of sweet treats, including banana splits, sundaes, root beer floats, donuts, milkshakes, and their best-selling specialty, ice cream nachos. The shop strives to be a nut-free facility, accommodating patrons with food allergies and providing options for folks with dietary restrictions. With a team of 10 employees, the business contributes to the vibrancy of Harlan's downtown and the broader Shelby County community. Through regular promotions and community-focused initiatives, Sunset Scoops demonstrates a commitment to giving back to the families and residents who support local small businesses. The business offers birthday parties, curbside pickup for a cozy night in, and discounted specials throughout the week.

Beyond providing scoops for the Shelby County community, Sunset Scoops is a club-level member of the Shelby County Chamber of Commerce. Tina and Jeremy are also board members of the Harlan community athletic booster club. In its first year, Sunset Scoops has become more than a place to enjoy desserts; it has become a space where memories are made and community bonds are strengthened. Its story is a reminder that small businesses play an essential role in enriching local communities and sustaining rural economies.

I am pleased to recognize Jeremy and Tina Schechinger, along with the entire team at Sunset Scoops, for their dedication to Harlan and Shelby County. I look forward to their continued success and wish them the very best in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO AVAH FISKE

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Avah Fiske of Loudon as February's Granite Stater of the Month. Since her brother Ryan died by suicide, Avah has advocated for mental health awareness and made New Hampshire a better and safer place.

Avah's older brother Ryan died by suicide in 2020 at age 12, when Avah was just 6 years old. Avah's entire family was stunned by the tragedy, especially because they had never heard Ryan talk about his struggles. But Avah has turned this pain into purpose—or, as her mom puts it, she has risen like a phoenix from the ashes—and she has dedicated herself to helping people talk about their feelings in order to prevent similar tragedies from happening to other families.

Avah wrote and recorded four public service announcements for her local radio station, encouraging people to reach out to youth mental health resources and the 988 National Suicide Crisis Lifeline. She also walked in the annual Out of Darkness Walk hosted by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and she regularly presents information on youth mental health

and the 988 lifeline at health fairs and community events.

Avah's work is not done, and she is committed to continuing to educate Granite State families about mental health resources. Avah even plans to one day start her own organization to build awareness around mental health. In the meantime, she plans to record more PSAs and keep spreading the word.

Avah's determination to carry on her brother's memory and use her loss to help other families is a beautiful example of the Granite State spirit of community. Her compassion, even at such a young age, is why I am honored to name her February's Granite Stater of the Month.●

RECOGNIZING THE BOISE AIRPORT

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Boise Airport. This milestone is a celebration of the airport's history and its contributions to our regional commerce, travel, and national defense.

The Boise Airport is a remarkable display of Idaho excellence. In 1926, volunteers from the city of Boise and nearby towns, including the Boy Scouts and veterans of the Civil, Indian, and Spanish-American wars, came together to build Idaho's first municipal airport along the Boise River, the site of present-day Boise State University. On April 6, 1926, the first U.S. commercial airmail flight took off, marking the beginning of a new era for the Gem State. By 1936, the city of Boise began acquiring the land for the current airport at Gowen Field Air National Guard Base. Two years later, it was home to an 8,800-foot-long runway, the longest in the Nation at the time.

Shortly after the United States entered World War II in 1941, Gowen Field was leased by the Army Air Corps, where over 6,000 personnel were stationed during the war. The airport became a combat training school for B-24 Liberator bomber and B-17 Flying Fortress crews. These troops were deployed to units like the 100th Bomb Group in the European theater. Since World War II, the airport has maintained a strong civilian-military partnership with the Air National Guard, enhancing our national security and local economy.

Over the past century, the Boise Airport has become a critical asset for the city of Boise and our region. In 2025, the airport served more than 5 million passengers and supported over 32,000 commercial flights on 8 airlines, consistently outpacing national averages. It now connects travelers to 27 nonstop destinations, bolstering Boise's reputation as one of the fastest growing cities in the country. The Boise Airport contributes nearly \$3 billion annually to the State's economy, supporting tens of thousands of jobs in aviation, logistics, hospitality, and related industries

across the Gem State. Ongoing expansion projects will ensure the airport meets the needs of Boiseans, can support Idaho's growing population and economy, and deliver top-tier traveler satisfaction.

I am confident the Boise Airport will continue to be a vital engine of opportunity for Idahoans, forging connections to people and industries across the country. Congratulations to the exceptional leadership and staff on this extraordinary milestone.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Holstead, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:52 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 681. An act to amend the Act of August 9, 1955 (commonly known as the "Long-Term Leasing Act"), to authorize leases of up to 99 years for land in the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Reservation and land held in trust for the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), and for other purposes.

H.R. 755. An act to amend the Energy Act of 2020 to harmonize the lists of critical minerals and critical materials, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1945. An act to designate the America's National Churchill Museum National Historic Landmark, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3692. An act to reauthorize the Young Fishermen's Development Act.

H.R. 3903. An act to exchange non-Federal land held by the Chugach Alaska Corporation for certain Federal Land in the Chugach Region, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4307. An act to direct the Secretary of Labor to train certain employees of Department of Labor how to effectively detect and assist law enforcement in preventing human trafficking during the course of their official duties, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4386. An act to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to clarify entrance privileges for vehicles with respect to the America the Beautiful interagency pass.

H.R. 5419. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a plan for ensuring timely review of broadband land use authorizations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5910. An act to authorize leases of up to 99 years for land held in trust for federally recognized Indian Tribes.

H.R. 6365. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to issue a right-of-way for an