

but they may not be too familiar with the impact on individual businesses. In particular, I am speaking about the affects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on minority firms in the Gulf Coast. As a result of these storms, many minority firms in the Gulf Coast were disrupted and thus lost valuable time for participating in the 8(a) program. The 8(a) business development initiative, created under the Small Business Administration, helps minority entrepreneurs access Federal contracts and allows companies to be certified for increments of 3 years. These contracts are vital to the revival of these impacted areas. However, as currently structured the program allows businesses to participate for a limited length of time, 9 years, after which they can never re-apply nor get back into the program. It is imperative that we provide contracting assistance to our local minority businesses.

The bill includes a provision which would tackle this problem in three important ways. First, the bill extends 8(a) eligibility for program participants in Katrina/Rita-impacted areas in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama by 24 months. The bill would also apply to any areas in the state of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama that have been designated by the administrator of the Small Business Administration as a disaster area as a result of Hurricanes Katrina or Rita. Lastly, the bill would require the administrator of the Small Business Administration to ensure that every small business participating in the 8(a) program before the date of enactment of the Act is reviewed and brought into compliance with this act. This requirement would ensure that any eligible previous 8(a) participants will be allowed back into the program. As such, these key provisions would ensure that these businesses continue to play a vital role in rebuilding their communities. I note that I introduced a similar provision as part of S. 3285, the disadvantaged Business Disaster Eligibility Act during the 110th Congress and as part of S. 2731 last Congress. During the 109th Congress, this proposal passed the House of Representatives but we were unable to pass the legislation here in the Senate before we adjourned for the year. I look forward to renewing my fight this Congress as I believe that this is a commonsense proposal which would not cost a great deal. It would, however, make a huge difference for these businesses impacted by Katrina and Rita.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1511

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Gulf Coast Disadvantaged Business Relief Act of 2011".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Small Business Administration;

(2) the term "covered parish or county" means a parish in the State of Louisiana, or a county in the State of Mississippi or the State of Alabama, that has been designated by the Administrator as a disaster area by reason of Hurricane Katrina of 2005 or Hurricane Rita of 2005 under disaster declaration 10176, 10177, 10178, 10179, 10180, 10181, 10205, or 10206; and

(3) the term "small business concern" has the meaning given that term under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF PARTICIPATION TERM FOR VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA OR HURRICANE RITA.

(a) RETROACTIVITY.—If a small business concern, while participating in any program or activity under the authority of section 7(j)(10) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(j)(10)), was located in a covered parish or county and was affected by Hurricane Katrina of 2005 or Hurricane Rita of 2005, the period during which the small business concern is permitted continuing participation and eligibility in the program or activity shall be extended for 24 months after the date such participation and eligibility would otherwise terminate.

(b) REVIEW AND COMPLIANCE.—The Administrator shall ensure that the case of every small business concern participating before the date of enactment of this Act in a program or activity described in subsection (a) is reviewed and brought into compliance with this Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 257—RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE MARK O. HATFIELD, FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF OREGON

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. REID of Nevada, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELLER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr.

PRYOR, Mr. REED of Rhode Island, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 257

Whereas from 1967 to 1997 Mark Hatfield represented the people of Oregon with distinction for 30 years in the Senate, and was the longest-serving Senator in the history of Oregon;

Whereas Mark Hatfield served in the United States Navy during World War II with the rank of Lieutenant, took part in the battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa as a landing craft officer, and was one of the first people from the United States to see the effects of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima;

Whereas Mark Hatfield served in the Oregon House of Representatives, in the Oregon Senate, and as Oregon Secretary of State;

Whereas in 1958, Mark Hatfield was elected as the 29th Governor of the State of Oregon, and served 2 terms as Governor and helped diversify the State's economy;

Whereas while serving in the United States Senate, Mark Hatfield co-authored legislation to bring United States troops home from Vietnam and to end nuclear weapons testing;

Whereas Mark Hatfield authored legislation to protect a number of Oregon's natural treasures including Oregon Dunes, Opal Creek, Bull Run, and the Mark Hatfield Wilderness Area in the Columbia Gorge;

Whereas Mark Hatfield served as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations in the 97th through 99th Congresses and in the 104th Congress;

Whereas Mark Hatfield was a champion of civil rights who devoted himself to promoting a peaceful resolution to international conflict and the elimination of the threat of nuclear weapons; and

Whereas the hallmarks of Mark Hatfield's public service were bipartisanship, civility, and working for the common good: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Mark Hatfield, former member of the Senate;

(2) the Secretary of the Senate communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of the deceased; and

(3) when the Senate adjourns today, the Senate stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable Mark Hatfield.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet in executive session on Wednesday, September 7, 2011, at 10 a.m. in SD-106 to mark-up the following: S. 958, the Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2011; S. 1094, the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act; and, any nominations cleared for action.