

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 197

Honoring the entrepreneurial spirit of small business concerns in the United States during National Small Business Week, which begins on May 15, 2011.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 24, 2011

Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. KERRY, Ms. AYOTTE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. RISCH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Honoring the entrepreneurial spirit of small business concerns in the United States during National Small Business Week, which begins on May 15, 2011.

Whereas the approximately 27,200,000 small business concerns in the United States are the driving force behind the Nation's economy, creating 2 out of every 3 new jobs and generating more than 50 percent of the Nation's non-farm gross domestic product;

Whereas small businesses are the driving force behind the economic recovery of the United States;

Whereas small businesses represent 99.7 percent of employer firms in the United States;

Whereas small business concerns are the Nation's innovators, serving to advance technology and productivity;

Whereas small business concerns represent 97.6 percent of all exporters and produce 32.8 percent of exported goods;

Whereas Congress established the Small Business Administration in 1953 to aid, counsel, assist, and protect the interests of small business concerns in order to preserve free and competitive enterprise, to ensure that a fair proportion of the total Federal Government purchases, contracts, and subcontracts for property and services are placed with small business concerns, to ensure that a fair proportion of the total sales of government property are made to such small business concerns, and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of the United States;

Whereas every year since 1963, the President has designated a "National Small Business Week" to recognize the contributions of small businesses to the economic well-being of the United States;

Whereas in 2011, National Small Business Week will honor the estimated 27,200,000 small businesses in the United States;

Whereas the Small Business Administration has helped small business concerns by providing access to critical lending opportunities, protecting small business concerns from excessive Federal regulatory enforcement, helping to ensure full and open competition for government contracts, and improving the economic environment in which small business concerns compete;

Whereas for more than 50 years, the Small Business Administration has helped millions of entrepreneurs achieve the

American dream of owning a small business concern, and has played a key role in fostering economic growth; and

Whereas the President has designated the week beginning May 15, 2011, as “National Small Business Week”:
Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) honors the entrepreneurial spirit of small
3 business concerns in the United States during Na-
4 tional Small Business Week, which begins on May
5 15, 2011;

6 (2) applauds the efforts and achievements of
7 the owners and employees of small business con-
8 cerns, whose hard work and commitment to excel-
9 lence have made such small business concerns a key
10 part of the economic vitality of the United States;

11 (3) recognizes the work of the Small Business
12 Administration and its resource partners in pro-
13 viding assistance to entrepreneurs and small busi-
14 ness concerns; and

15 (4) recognizes the importance of ensuring
16 that—

17 (A) guaranteed loans, including microloans
18 and microloan technical assistance, for start-up
19 and growing small business concerns, and ven-
20 ture capital, are made available to all qualified
21 small business concerns;

1 (B) the management assistance programs
2 delivered by resource partners on behalf of the
3 Small Business Administration, such as Small
4 Business Development Centers, Women's Busi-
5 ness Centers, and the Service Corps of Retired
6 Executives, are provided with the Federal re-
7 sources necessary to provide invaluable coun-
8 seling services to entrepreneurs in the United
9 States;

10 (C) the Small Business Administration
11 continues to provide timely and efficient dis-
12 aster assistance so that small businesses in
13 areas struck by natural or manmade disasters
14 can quickly return to business to keep local
15 economies alive in the aftermath of such disas-
16 ters;

17 (D) affordable broadband Internet access
18 is available to all people in the United States,
19 particularly people in rural and underserved
20 communities, so that small businesses can use
21 the Internet to make their operations more
22 globally competitive while boosting local econo-
23 mies;

24 (E) regulatory relief is provided to small
25 businesses through the reduction of duplicative

1 or unnecessary regulatory requirements that in-
2 crease costs for small businesses; and

3 (F) leveling the playing field for con-
4 tracting opportunities remains a primary focus,
5 so that small businesses, particularly minority-
6 owned small businesses, can compete for and
7 win more of the \$400,000,000,000 in contracts
8 that the Federal Government enters into each
9 year for goods and services.

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