

will serve to minimize the use of contract bundling and consolidation of contracts by the Federal Government, and increase the ability of small businesses to fairly compete for such contracts through a host of key improvements, including allowing small businesses to join together in teams to bid on certain procurement opportunities. Additional requirements will help to ensure prompt payment from prime contractors to subcontractors, and make it easier for the Federal government to prosecute businesses who fraudulently identify themselves as small companies.

Since the mid-1990s, with the enactment of acquisition streamlining reforms and the downsizing of the Federal procurement workforce, small businesses have faced a litany of hurdles that have deprived them of Federal contracting dollars. One such impediment is contract bundling which takes contracting opportunities out of the hands of deserving small businesses by grouping numerous small contracts and bundling them into one large award. Ill-equipped to manage the demands of these consolidated awards due to a lack of resources, small business owners again find themselves crowded out of the Federal contracting process. Consequently, the bipartisan measure we are introducing reflects the recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office, GAO, to impose stricter reviews and more comprehensive reporting of bundled contracts, encourages small business teaming to bid on larger contracts, and promotes Federal agency publishing and use of best practices. Additional obstacles to successful small business contracting include “bait and switch” tactics used by prime contractors who use small firms in developing bids but do not subcontract with them once a contract has been awarded. Our bill will address this concern as well as other ongoing problems such as large businesses posing as small businesses, flawed reporting data, and agencies who fail to meet their small business contracting goals.

As ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I am further dismayed by the myriad ways that government agencies have time and again egregiously failed to meet the vast majority of their small business statutory “goalings” requirements. It is unconscionable that the statutory goal for only one category of small business—small disadvantaged businesses—has been met, and that goals for the three other programs HUBZones, women-owned small businesses, and service-disabled veterans-owned businesses—have never been achieved.

Consider that, in 2007, small businesses were eligible for \$378 billion in Federal contracting awards, yet received only \$83 billion. This blatant failure to utilize small businesses, thus preventing them to secure their fair share of Federal contracting dollars,

has resulted in firms losing billions of dollars in contracting opportunities. But 23 percent is only a base goal. We must strive to exceed it, not just meet it.

In the last 2 years alone, the Small Business Committee has held numerous hearings and roundtables to identify and explain small business’ contracting concerns. In addition, the GAO and the Small Business Administration’s, SBA, inspector general have issued multiple reports addressing small business Federal contracting deficiencies. Our legislation builds on the contracting provisions of previous Small Business Committee contracting bills by endowing the SBA with additional tools to meet the demands of an ever-changing 21st century contracting environment.

That said, I am greatly encouraged by the latest statistics relating to Federal contracting dollars awarded to small businesses from the funds appropriated under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, ARRA. Preliminary reports show that as of February 1, 2010, small businesses have received over 29 percent of the ARRA Federal contracting dollars, well exceeding the imposed 23 percent statutory goal. This begs the question, if the Federal Government can not only meet but exceed these requirements for the Recovery Act, why can’t these goals be met year in and year out? The simple answer is they can. I am hopeful this administration will make a conscious effort to reverse the government-wide failure to meet small business goals on a consistent basis.

I am confident that this legislation will result in the changes necessary to reduce fraud and waste while paving the way for the Federal Government to maximize the use of America’s innovative small businesses in the contracting arena. Again, I want to recognize Senator LANDRIEU for her leadership in this matter and for her continuing commitment to the small business community.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING THE ALBANY AREA YMCA

• Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate the Albany Area YMCA on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

On October 25, 1909, 100 businessmen met at the New Albany Hotel for the purpose of establishing and building a YMCA in Albany. Five days later, the campaign, led by Judge F.F. Putney, was successful in raising \$30,000.

Just 1 year later, the vision became a reality, and the first YMCA building in Albany opened its doors at the corner of Pine and Jefferson.

Since its inception in 1910, the Albany Area YMCA has been an important part of life for residents of southwest Georgia.

Just last year, more than 30,000 people were involved in the YMCA, wheth-

er it was coaching baseball, participating in the 5K runs or volunteering at the food drives.

I have been to the Albany Area YMCA several times and I am always impressed by the new community initiatives and programs taking place there.

The YMCA has always been committed to challenging boys and girls to think beyond themselves and to set goals—and it is this focus on character development that has helped strengthen the community.

As a former volunteer and past president of the Moultrie YMCA, I have a special appreciation for the great work the volunteers are doing. And they ought to be commended for their tremendous efforts.

For 100 years, YMCA volunteers have helped children develop themselves as honest, respectful, caring and responsible individuals.

Additionally, I would be remiss if I did not mention Dave Wallace, who has made a tremendous impact on the Albany Area YMCA while serving as the executive director.

I have had the good fortune of knowing Dave for several years. The YMCA has flourished under his leadership—and I have no doubt he has touched many lives throughout his tenure there.

Over the years, the Albany Area YMCA has relocated, expanded and changed in many aspects, but it has never steered away from its mission “to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all.”

Once again, I would like to offer my congratulations and appreciation to the Albany Area YMCA on this very special occasion. ●

##### RECOGNIZING THE NORRIS STEVENS FAMILY

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I congratulate the Norris Stevens family for being named the Drew County Farm Family of the Year for 2009.

I have felt a long kinship with Drew County, and I am grateful for the friendships I have made there. I have many fond memories visiting the Drew County Courthouse, where my southern Arkansas field office was located when I was first elected to the U.S. Senate.

As a seventh-generation Arkansan and farmer’s daughter, and as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I understand firsthand and appreciate the hard work and contributions of our farm families. Agriculture is the backbone of Arkansas’s economy, creating more than 270,000 jobs in the State and providing \$9.1 billion in wages and salaries. In total, agriculture contributes roughly \$15.9 billion to the Arkansas economy each year.

Mr. President, our farm families are critical to our Nation’s economic stability. We must work to continue the farm family tradition, so families such