

stimulate lending to small businesses that are most likely to grow and add new employees. The managers' substitute amendment incorporates the provision from the emergency supplemental that reduces the annual fee paid by lenders from 50 basis points, 0.50 percent, to 25 basis points, 0.25 percent. In addition, the up front origination fee paid by small business borrowers would be reduced. These enhancements to the SBA's 7(a) program, and comparable reductions in 504 loan program fees, are to continue through September 30, 2004. They are designed to make the programs operate more effectively and efficiently during the period when the economy is weak and banks have tightened their underwriting requirements for small business loans.

Specifically, when the economy is slowing, it is normal for banks to raise the bar for obtaining commercial loans. However, making it harder for small businesses to survive is the wrong reaction to a slowing economy. By making these adjustments to the 7(a) and 504 loans to make them more affordable to borrowers and lenders, we will be working against history's rules governing a slowing economy, thereby adding a stimulus for small businesses. Essentially, we will be providing a counter-cyclical action in the face of a slow economy with the express purpose of accelerating the recovery.

The SBA has a very effective infrastructure for providing management assistance to small businesses located nationwide. The Small Business Development Center, SBDC, SCORE, Women's Business Center and Microloan programs provide much needed counseling to small businesses that are struggling or facing problems in their start-up phase. With the U.S. economy under unusual stress, many segments of the small business community are today unable to cope with daily management issues.

S. 1499 would authorize expansions in these programs so that the SBDCs, the SCORE chapters and the Women's Business Centers are positioned to address the needs of a large influx of small businesses looking for help. Our bill would create special authorization for each program to provide assistance tailored to the needs of small businesses following the September 11 terrorist attacks. In addition, the bill would increase the authorization levels by the following amounts: SBDC program, \$25 million, SCORE \$2 million, Women's Business Centers \$2 million, and Microloan technical assistance, \$5 million.

For small businesses that are doing business with the Federal Government section 9 of the managers' substitute amendment to S. 1499 would authorize a fund of \$50 million to compensate small businesses when Federal action as the result of the terrorist attacks, has caused the costs to increase for small businesses to meet the terms of their contracts. The fund would be ad-

ministered by the Department of the Treasury. The Office of Federal Procurement Policy would establish guidelines for administering the program, and the contracting agencies would consult with the SBA when determining whether an award should be made.

The American Small Businesses Emergency Relief and Recovery Act is important legislation that is needed to help the many struggling small businesses. Swift passage will be very helpful to the long-term survival of many of American's small businesses, and I urge each of my colleagues to vote in favor of the bill. •

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill, as amended, be read the third time and passed; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1499), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

AUTHORIZING CONSTRUCTION OF NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER AND MUSEUM

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Indian Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1321 and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1321) to authorize the construction of a Native American Cultural Center and Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 3077

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, Senator NICKLES has an amendment to the desk, and I ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Connecticut [Mr. DODD], for Mr. NICKLES, for himself and Mr. INHOFE, proposes an amendment numbered 3077.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. OKLAHOMA NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER AND MUSEUM.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In order to promote better understanding between Indian and non-Indian citizens of the United States, and in light of the Federal Government's continuing trust responsibilities to Indian tribes, it is appropriate, desirable, and a proper function of the Federal Government to provide grants for the development of a museum designated to display the heritage and culture of Indian tribes.

(2) In recognition of the unique status and history of Indian tribes in the State of Okla-

homa and the role of the Federal Government in such history, it is appropriate and proper for the museum referred to in paragraph (1) to be located in the State of Oklahoma.

(b) GRANT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall offer to award financial assistance equaling not more than \$33,000,000 and technical assistance to the Authority to be used for the development and construction of a Native American Cultural Center and Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

(2) AGREEMENT.—To be eligible to receive a grant under paragraph (1), the appropriate official of the Authority shall—

(A) enter into a grant agreement with the Director which shall specify the duties of the Authority under this section, including provisions for continual maintenance of the Center by the Authority without the use of Federal funds; and

(B) demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Director, that the Authority has raised, or has commitments from private persons or State or local government agencies for, an amount that is equal to not less than 66 percent of the cost to the Authority of the activities to be carried out under the grant.

(3) LIMITATION.—The amount of any grant awarded under paragraph (1) shall not exceed 33 percent of the cost of the activities to be funded under the grant.

(4) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION.—When calculating the cost share of the Authority under this Act, the Director shall reduce such cost share obligation by the fair market value of the approximately 300 acres of land donated by Oklahoma City for the Center, if such land is used for the Center.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this Act:

(1) AUTHORITY.—The term "Authority" means the Native American Cultural and Educational Authority of Oklahoma, and agency of the State of Oklahoma.

(2) CENTER.—The term "Center" means the Native American Cultural Center and Museum authorized pursuant to this section.

(3) DIRECTOR.—The term "Director" means the Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Director to grant assistance under subsection (b)(1), \$8,250,000 for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2006.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3077) was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1321), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING BUREAU OF THE CENSUS ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS ESTABLISHMENT

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 333, H. Con. Res. 339.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows: