

everything that I am and everything I hope to be, I owe it to football. I am certain he said it.

But then to come this morning and to ignore the accomplishments of a team that won the World Series—and we are pausing for 20 minutes to say congratulations—I don't think, to me, that's out of line.

But I do think that when you twist it and you talk about something else that's not related to the resolution, I think that's unfair, and I think that I would use a word that might be a little strong for him. I would say that's inappropriate on this occasion anyway, recognizing that I know that he has been very involved in athletics.

Of course, Madam Speaker, I would like to take this time to recognize the Yankees again and to say to them and to Mr. Steinbrenner and, of course, Randy Levine and all of them that had the opportunity to put together this magnificent team that has made all of us proud.

Of course, we again salute the New York Yankees, the world champions, who happens to be a team that is based in the Bronx.

Mr. MCMAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the New York Yankees, baseball's most storied franchise, on winning their 27th World Series. After a hard-fought series, the Yankees won game six at home in the Bronx against the Philadelphia Phillies. Winning their record 27th World Series is something that the whole organization, city, and State can be proud of. I am elated to join my fellow Representatives from New York and Representatives from across this great country in honoring this historic moment. The Yankees have won more championships than any other baseball club in history.

The Yankees certainly have a season to be proud of. After finishing at the top of the American League's Eastern Division, the Yankees went on to beat the Minnesota Twins 3–0 in the American League Division Series. Facing off against the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim in the American League Championship Series, the Yankees fought hard to win the series four games to two.

Under the leadership of team captain and ten-time all-star Derek Jeter, the Yankees have added another heroic chapter to the story that already includes such immortals and Lou Gehrig, Babe Ruth, Joe DiMaggio, Mickey Mantle, Yogi Berra, Reggie Jackson, and Don Mattingly. I am proud to not only be from the great city of New York, but I am also proud to represent the Yankees minor league affiliate, the Staten Island Yankees, also known as the Baby Bombers.

The Yankees and their farm teams bring much to the places they reside. They bring pride, hope, jobs, and on occasions such as this week, they bring happiness and joy to their many supporters.

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in an Empire State of Mind, to voice my full support of H. Res. 893. I am a lifelong New Yorker and proud to stand with the New York City Congressional Delegation and congratulate the "Bronx Bombers," also known as the New York Yankees on winning their 27th World Championship. Amazingly, the Yankees have won more championships than any other

franchise in North American professional sports history. This would not have been possible without the contributions of some of baseball's greatest players. Historic players like Babe Ruth, Joe DiMaggio, Mickey Mantle, Lou Gehrig, Yogi Berra, Elston Howard, Roger Maris, Reggie Jackson, Don Mattingly, Ricky Henderson, Bernie Williams, Willie Randolph, Paul O'Neill, Mariano Rivera, Coach Joe Girardi, Alex Rodriguez, Andy Pettitte and my all time favorite, Derek Jeter. These players have all contributed to the fame and legacy of this historic franchise.

Throughout my entire life, the Yankees have been a symbol of great baseball and epitomized the vibrant spirit, unyielding hope and strength of the great city of New York. The city's history has been through much adversity and challenge. Thankfully, the Yankees have helped us get through the best of times and the worst of times. Their winning history has helped lift our spirit and boost our morale through the Great Depression, the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and this current economic crisis. Over the years, this great franchise has lit the torch of honor and resilience, showing the nation that no matter what our city, state or country goes through, victory is on the horizon.

I congratulate the franchise owner, George Steinbrenner, as well as manager Joe Girardi, the players, the staff, the millions of fans all over the world and all who contributed to this monumental achievement.

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 893.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SMALL BUSINESS MICROLENDING EXPANSION ACT OF 2009

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3737) to amend the Small Business Act to improve the Microloan Program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H. R. 3737

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 "Small Business Microlending Expansion Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. MICROLOAN CREDIT BUILDING INITIATIVE.

Section 7(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(m)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(14) CREDIT REPORTING INFORMATION.—The Administrator shall establish a process, for use by an intermediary making a loan to a borrower under this subsection, under which the intermediary shall provide to the major credit reporting agencies the information about the borrower, both positive and negative, that is relevant to credit reporting, such as the payment activity of the borrower on the loan. Such process shall allow an intermediary the option of providing information to the major credit reporting agencies through the Administration or independently."

SEC. 3. FLEXIBLE CREDIT TERMS.

Section 7(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(m)), as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B)(i) by striking "short-term,";

(2) in paragraph (6)(A) by striking "short-term,"; and

(3) in paragraph (11)(B) by striking "short-term,".

SEC. 4. INCREASED PROGRAM PARTICIPATION.

Section 7(m)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(m)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A) by striking "paragraph (10)" and inserting "paragraph (11)"; and

(2) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

"(B) has—

"(i) at least—

"(I) 1 year of experience making microloans to startup, newly established, or growing small business concerns; or

"(II) 1 full-time employee who has not less than 3 years of experience making microloans to startup, newly established, or growing small business concerns; and

"(ii) at least—

"(I) 1 year of experience providing, as an integral part of its microloan program, intensive marketing, management, and technical assistance to its borrowers; or

"(II) 1 full-time employee who has not less than 1 year of experience providing intensive marketing, management, and technical assistance to borrowers."

SEC. 5. INCREASED LIMIT ON INTERMEDIARY BORROWING.

Section 7(m)(3)(C) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(m)(3)(C)) is amended—

(1) by striking "\$750,000" and inserting "\$1,000,000";

(2) by striking "\$3,500,000" and inserting "\$7,000,000"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following: "The Administrator may treat the amount of \$7,000,000 in this subparagraph as if such amount is \$10,000,000 if the Administrator determines, with respect to an intermediary, that such treatment is appropriate."

SEC. 6. EXPANDED BORROWER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE.

Section 7(m)(4)(E) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(m)(4)(E)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i) by striking "25 percent" and inserting "35 percent"; and

(2) in clause (ii) by striking "25 percent" and inserting "35 percent".

SEC. 7. YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS PROGRAM.

Section 7(m)(4) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(m)(4)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(G) YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS PROGRAM.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—An intermediary that receives a grant under paragraph (1)(B)(ii) may establish a program for the geographic area served by such intermediary that provides to young entrepreneurs technical assistance regarding the following:

"(I) Establishing or operating a small business concern in the geographic area served by the intermediary.

“(II) Acquiring or securing financing to carry out the activities described in subclause (I).

“(ii) YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR DEFINED.—For purposes of this subparagraph, a young entrepreneur is an individual who—

“(I) is 25 years of age or younger; and

“(II) has resided in the geographic area served by the intermediary for not less than 2 years.

“(iii) GOOD FAITH EFFORT REQUIREMENT.—If a young entrepreneur who receives technical assistance under this subparagraph from an intermediary establishes or operates a small business concern, the young entrepreneur shall make a good faith effort to establish or operate such concern in the geographic area served by the intermediary.

“(iv) DEFERRED REPAYMENT.—If a small business concern established or operated by a young entrepreneur receives a loan under this subsection, such concern may defer repayment on such loan for a period of not more than 6 months beginning on the date that such concern receives the final disbursement of such loan.”.

SEC. 8. INTEREST RATES AND LOAN SIZE.

Section 7(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(m)), as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)(F)(iii) by striking “\$7,500” and inserting “\$10,000”;

(2) in paragraph (6)(C)(i) by striking “\$7,500” and inserting “\$10,000”; and

(3) in paragraph (6)(C)(ii) by striking “\$7,500” and inserting “\$10,000”.

SEC. 9. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.

Section 7(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(m)), as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(15) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the end of each fiscal year, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate a report that includes, with respect to such fiscal year of the microloan program, the following:

“(A) The names and locations of each intermediary that received funds to make microloans or provide marketing, management, and technical assistance.

“(B) The amounts of each loan and each grant provided to each such intermediary in such fiscal year and in prior fiscal years.

“(C) A description of the contributions from non-Federal sources of each such intermediary.

“(D) The number and amounts of microloans made by each such intermediary to all borrowers and to each of the following:

“(i) Women entrepreneurs and business owners.

“(ii) Low-income entrepreneurs and business owners.

“(iii) Veteran entrepreneurs and business owners.

“(iv) Disabled entrepreneurs and business owners.

“(v) Minority entrepreneurs and business owners.

“(E) A description of the marketing, management, and technical assistance provided by each such intermediary to all borrowers and to each of the following:

“(i) Women entrepreneurs and business owners.

“(ii) Low-income entrepreneurs and business owners.

“(iii) Veteran entrepreneurs and business owners.

“(iv) Disabled entrepreneurs and business owners.

“(v) Minority entrepreneurs and business owners.

“(F) The number of jobs created and retained as a result of microloans and marketing, management, and technical assistance provided by each such intermediary.

“(G) The repayment history of each such intermediary.

“(H) The number of businesses that achieved success after receipt of a microloan.”.

SEC. 10. SURPLUS INTEREST RATE SUBSIDY FOR BUSINESSES.

Section 7(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(m)), as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(16) INTEREST ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator is authorized to make grants to intermediaries for the purposes of reducing interest rates charged to borrowers that receive financing under this subsection.”.

SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 20 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 note) is amended by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

“(f) FISCAL YEARS 2010 AND 2011 WITH RESPECT TO SECTION 7(m).—

“(1) PROGRAM LEVELS.—For the programs authorized by this Act, the Administration is authorized to make during each of fiscal years 2010 and 2011—

“(A) \$80,000,000 in technical assistance grants, as provided in section 7(m);

“(B) \$110,000,000 in direct loans, as provided in section 7(m); and

“(C) \$10,000,000 in interest assistance grants, as provided in section 7(m)(16).

“(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out paragraph (1).”.

SEC. 12. REGULATIONS.

Except as otherwise provided in this Act or in amendments made by this Act, after an opportunity for notice and comment, but not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall issue regulations to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I just would like the record to reflect the fact that I am a Mets fan, and I do not associate myself with the previous comments.

During economic downturns, like the one our Nation faces today, many Americans who cannot find work elsewhere take the initiative to launch their own ventures. Time and time again, these start-up businesses have helped strengthen the economy, created new jobs, and led our Nation to recovery. And in the short term, these new businesses give hard-working Americans a way to support their families when times are tough.

The Small Business Administration's microloan program helps entrepreneurs secure the start-up capital they need to get new ventures off the ground. Microloans have always been a great tool for job creation. At its core, this program is about helping Americans with a good business idea take the first step to get a new business off the ground.

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New businesses mean new jobs. With this bill, we are making the microloan program an even more powerful tool for job creation.

The legislation before us will make a number of important changes to improve how the SBA microloan program functions. Under the bill, we will reduce the interest rate that borrowers pay in the program. The bill will also help more lenders get involved in the program, giving businesses more options and making it easier to access the program. And this legislation will allow existing lenders to increase the amount of money they lend. These changes will expand the program's capacity and mean additional capital flows to small businesses.

Finally, the bill allows lenders to spend more on providing technical assistance for small firms. The valuable services that microlenders provide, like teaching entrepreneurs how to write a business plan, often means the difference between a new venture succeeding or failing.

The American spirit of entrepreneurship is critical during times of economic downturn. By improving the SBA's microloan program and getting more capital in the hands of small business owners, this bill will accelerate our Nation's recovery. I urge the bill's passage. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3737, which is the Small Business Microlending Expansion Act of 2009, and with that, I will go ahead and yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE), who is the Chairman of the Republican Caucus.

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, first, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Let me thank the chairman of the committee and the ranking member for working in a bipartisan way on what is very worthy legislation that I support. Small business America is the engine of the American economy, and I appreciate in these tumultuous times the development of this program in this legislation.

But I rise today with a heavy heart, Mr. Speaker, a heavy heart, because this morning we crossed a milestone. Unemployment was announced this morning at 10.2 percent, the worst rate of unemployment in the United States of America since 1983. Now, that is just a number, but I can't help but feel and see in my mind the faces and the families and the businesses that that represents.

Working families, small businesses, and family farmers in this country are hurting; and at 10.2 percent unemployment, it is time for this Congress to rethink the approach that we have taken to legislation and to this economy.

First, on the economy. Clearly, the so-called stimulus bill that was passed in February of this year has failed. The American people know that we can't borrow and spend and bail our way back to a growing economy. But, sadly, that was the approach that this administration and this majority took. Borrowing more than \$700 billion from future generations of Americans, spreading it out in a wish list of liberal spending priorities, has seen unemployment go from 7.5 percent at the time the stimulus bill was passed to today's gut-wrenching 10.2 percent unemployment. So we have got to take a different approach to this economy.

Back in Indiana, I can tell you a lot of things we focus on out here are not really what I hear about walking up and down the streets of Muncie and Anderson and New Castle, Indiana. I hear people talking about jobs. People are asking, when is Congress going to get the message that the time has come for us to enact fast-acting tax relief for working families, small businesses, and family farms, tax relief that would take effect right now, hit the bottom line of households and businesses all across this country right now?

Republicans offered an alternative to the so-called stimulus bill earlier this year that, using the economic models of the White House at the time, would have cost half as much and created twice as many jobs; and there is still time to get it right.

The lessons of history are clear: John F. Kennedy knew it, Ronald Reagan knew it, and after the Towers fell, George W. Bush knew it. The way to jump-start the American economy is to give the American people more of their hard-earned tax dollars to spend on their families and on their enterprises, and that we should do. That is first.

Secondly, let me say I think the time has come, Mr. Speaker, for this Congress to make the priorities of the American people its priorities and set aside this massive government takeover of health care that is being driven to the floor of the Congress tomorrow, with \$700 billion in higher taxes, with \$1.3 trillion in new spending, 111 new government programs and bureaucracies are created; 43 entitlements are created or expanded.

At 10.2 percent unemployment, now is not the time to launch a massive new government-run insurance plan and pay for it on the backs of working families, small businesses, and family farms.

An analysis of the tax increase, there is \$729.5 billion in new taxes on small businesses and individuals who can't afford health coverage in the Democrat health care bill. I saw one piece of analysis that suggested that, despite the President's promise in last year's election that he would allow no tax increases on any Americans that make less than \$200,000 per year, 87 percent of the new taxes in the Democrat health care bill will be paid by Americans who make less than \$200,000 per year. A

1,990-page bill creating a massive new government-run insurance plan at a time when working families and small businesses are struggling and shedding jobs and making sacrifices at home and at work just to keep the lights on and the doors open is unthinkable.

So, Mr. Speaker, I plead with this party: Belay your plans to launch a government takeover of health care. Put the interests of American families in this hurting economy first. Let's not add the insult of a massive new government program to the injury of 10.2 percent unemployment.

And one last point. I note, Mr. Speaker, an admired colleague of mine just moments ago said on the floor of this House that it was a shame that Members of the minority were using unrelated legislation to talk about health care reform, and I don't begrudge that esteemed Member his opinion.

But let me say, with press reports that suggest that we won't spend any more than half a day on the floor of this House debating what could amount to a government takeover of one-sixth of the American economy, it is a shame. There are great ideas on the Democrat side of the aisle. I want to say without hesitation, there are better ideas on the Republican side of the aisle.

But why don't we let the People's House work its will? Why don't we start the debate immediately? Let's bring the hundreds of amendments that Republicans and Democrats have offered, as we do with appropriations bills, let's bring them to the floor. Let's have wide-open, free-wheeling debate, and let's call the votes one after another. I have nowhere to be, except home standing with my veterans next Wednesday, from now until Thanksgiving. So let's get started. Let's go around the clock.

The people that should be feeling shame, Mr. Speaker, are those that would pile drive through this Congress a massive expansion of the Federal Government, an enormous increase in taxes, at a heart-breaking time when unemployment reaches historic levels in this generation. It is time for Washington, DC, to listen to the heart of the American people and make their priorities our priorities.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3737, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SERRANO). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just would like to comment to the previous speaker that it seems like the American public didn't buy the argument that the other side has a better

idea, and that is why they are in the minority today.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the sponsor of this bill, Mr. ELLSWORTH from Indiana.

I would like to inquire from the ranking member if he has further speakers at this time?

Mr. GRAVES. Just myself, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. I reserve my time.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, just before I get started, in talking about the last bill that was up, I want the chairman of the committee to know that I am going to reserve my judgment on how I am going to vote on that bill, since we have a recorded vote, until I consult with her, given her statement that she is a Mets fan. So I just wanted to make sure she knew that. So I will wait to see how she votes before I make a decision on how I am going to vote on that.

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned earlier I do rise today in support of H.R. 3737, which is the Small Business Micro-lending Expansion Act of 2009. The committee has worked on a very bipartisan basis to bring this technical but very important piece of legislation to the floor.

H.R. 3737 represents the first substantive change to the microloan program in nearly a decade. In the United States, microlending is used as potential engines of economic activity for those individuals that do not have access to commercial financial institutions and the technical knowledge needed to start a small business.

The Small Business Administration created a pilot program and Congress created a permanent authority for the program in 1992. SBA does not provide micro-credit directly to entrepreneurs. Instead, the SBA provides below-market rate loans to nonprofit intermediaries. These institutions then make loans to entrepreneurs.

As with other SBA financing programs, the SBA does not provide all the funds for financing. Intermediaries must contribute 15 percent of the value of loans in non-Federal funds.

But the key to the success of microlending is not the loans, but, rather, it is the education and counseling that the intermediaries provide to their borrowers. With this knowledge, these entrepreneurs are able to manage their financial resources and ensure repayment of the loans. The success is demonstrated by the very low number of defaults by borrowers and cost-effective means by which it produces jobs in areas that need economic revitalization.

Despite its success, the microloan program needs to be revised in light of changes to the economy during the past 6 years and in some cases to update matters that have not been altered since the program's inception more than 15 years ago.

Microlenders exist mainly because normal commercial lending institutions do not provide access to credit for

those who are highly credit risky. One way to improve that is to have borrowers' histories passed along to credit bureaus, and I think having the SBA work with the intermediaries to accomplish the delivery of credit histories will benefit borrowers.

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H.R. 3737 also enables the intermediaries to determine the length of the credit that will be made available to the borrowers. Given the expertise of the intermediaries, it makes abundant sense for the determinations on the length of loans to rest with the intermediaries and the borrowers. I want to emphasize that this change has no impact on the loan obligations of intermediaries to the SBA. So the change involves no risk to the Federal Treasury.

H.R. 3737 also raises the level of the average loan size in the intermediary's portfolio from \$7,500 to \$10,000. This level has not been changed since 1992, and the adjustment is appropriate to take account of inflation in the intervening 15 years. One key element in the microloan program is the preloan training provided by intermediaries to ensure that only those individuals with the right aptitude start small businesses. H.R. 3737 expands the capacity of intermediaries to provide such training.

Again, I would like to thank the chairwoman and the gentleman from Indiana for bringing forward these important changes to the microloan program.

Mr. Speaker, I don't think we have anymore speakers, so I will yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELAZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3737, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTERS IMPROVEMENTS ACT

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1838) to amend the Small Business Act to modify certain provisions relating to Women's Business Centers, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1838

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

SECTION 1. NOTIFICATION OF GRANTS; PUBLICATION OF GRANT AMOUNTS.

Section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(O) NOTIFICATION OF GRANTS; PUBLICATION OF GRANT AMOUNTS.—The Administrator shall disburse funds to a women's business center not later than 1 month after the center's application is approved under this section. At the end of each fiscal year the Administrator (acting through the Office of Women's Business ownership) shall publish on the Administration's website a report setting forth the total amount of the grants made under this Act to each women's business center in the fiscal year for which the report is issued, the total amount of such grants made in each prior fiscal year to each such center, and the total amount of private matching funds provided by each such center over the lifetime of the center.”.

SEC. 2. COMMUNICATIONS.

Section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656), as amended, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(p) COMMUNICATIONS.—The Administrator shall establish, by rule, a standardized process to communicate with women's business centers regarding program administration matters, including reimbursement, regulatory matters, and programmatic changes. The Administrator shall notify each women's business center of the opportunity for notice and comment on the proposed rule.”.

SEC. 3. FUNDING.

(a) FORMULA.—Section 29(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(b)) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) AUTHORITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may provide financial assistance to private non-profit organizations to conduct projects for the benefit of small business concerns owned and controlled by women. The projects shall provide—

“(A) financial assistance, including training and counseling in how to apply for and secure business credit and investment capital, preparing and presenting financial statements, and managing cash flow and other financial operations of a business concern;

“(B) management assistance, including training and counseling in how to plan, organize, staff, direct, and control each major activity and function of a small business concern, including implementing cost-saving energy techniques; and

“(C) marketing assistance, including training and counseling in identifying and segmenting domestic and international market opportunities, preparing and executing marketing plans, developing pricing strategies, locating contract opportunities, negotiating contracts, and utilizing varying public relations and advertising techniques.

“(2) TIERS.—The Administrator shall provide assistance under paragraph (1) in 3 tiers of assistance as follows:

“(A) The first tier shall be to conduct a 5-year project in a situation where a project has not previously been conducted. Such a project shall be in a total amount of not more than \$150,000 per year. Projects receiving assistance under this subparagraph that possess the capacity to train existing or potential business owners in the fields of green technology, clean technology, or energy effi-

ciency shall receive the maximum award under this subparagraph.

“(B) The second tier shall be to conduct a 3-year project in a situation where a first-tier project is being completed. Such a project shall be in a total amount of not more than \$100,000 per year.

“(C) The third tier shall be to conduct a 3-year project in a situation where a second-tier project is being completed. Such a project shall be in a total amount of not more than \$100,000 per year. Third-tier grants shall be renewable subject to established eligibility criteria as well as criteria in subsection (b)(4).

“(3) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts made available for assistance under this subsection, the Administrator shall allocate—

“(A) at least 40 percent for first-tier projects under paragraph (2)(A);

“(B) 20 percent for second-tier projects under paragraph (2)(B); and

“(C) the remainder for third-tier projects under paragraph (2)(C).

“(4) BENCHMARKS FOR THIRD-TIER PROJECTS.—In awarding third-tier projects under paragraph (2)(C), the Administrator shall use benchmarks based on socio-economic factors in the community and on the performance of the applicant. The benchmarks shall include—

“(A) the total number of women served by the project;

“(B) the proportion of low income women and socio-economic distribution of clients served by the project;

“(C) the proportion of individuals in the community that are socially or economically disadvantaged (based on median income);

“(D) the future fund-raising and service coordination plans;

“(E) the capacity of the project to train existing or potential business owners in the fields of green technology, clean technology, or energy efficiency;

“(F) the diversity of services provided; and

“(G) geographic distribution within and across the 10 regions of the Small Business Administration.”.

(b) MATCHING.—Subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 29(c)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(c)(1)) are amended to read as follows:

“(A) For the first and second years of the project, 1 non-Federal dollar for each 2 Federal dollars.

“(B) Each year after the second year of the project—

“(i) 1 non-Federal dollar for each Federal dollar; or

“(ii) if the center is in a community at least 50 percent of the population of which is below the median income for the State or United States territory in which the center is located, 1 non-Federal dollar for each 2 Federal dollars.”.

(c) AUTHORIZATION.—Section 20 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 note) is amended by inserting the following new subsection after subsection (e):

“(f) WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTERS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for purposes of grants under section 29 to women's business centers not more than \$20,000,000 in fiscal year 2010 and not more than \$22,000,000 in fiscal year 2011.”.

SEC. 4. PERFORMANCE AND PLANNING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 29(h)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(h)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (A);

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (D); and

(3) by inserting the following new subparagraphs after subparagraph (A):