

recovering from these disasters—some from a disaster that devastated the gulf coast almost 5 years ago. We are now also dealing with the economic and environmental damage from the Deepwater Horizon disaster which occurred this April. For this reason, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship ensuring effective Federal disaster coordination is one of my top priorities. While the gulf coast is prone to hurricanes, other parts of the country are no strangers to disaster. For example, the Midwest has tornadoes, California experiences earthquakes and wildfires, and the Northeast sees crippling snowstorms. So no part of our country is spared from disasters—disasters which can and will strike at any moment. With this in mind, we must ensure that the Federal Government is better prepared and has the tools necessary to respond quickly, effectively following a disaster.

In order to help ongoing recovery efforts in the gulf coast, and to give the U.S. Small Business Administration, SBA, more tools to respond after a future disaster, I am proud that the House of Representatives passed H.R. 5297, the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010. I have spoken at length on the Senate floor about the huge impact this legislation will have for small business owners. Today I also note that this legislation includes an important provision improving SBA disaster assistance. This provision builds off of SBA disaster reforms enacted in 2008 and ensures that small businesses in the aquaculture sector will not be left without disaster assistance following future disasters. In particular, the provision is section 1501 of H.R. 5297. I note that this provision is similar to section 205 of legislation I introduced last year, the Small Business Administration Disaster Recovery and Reform Act of 2009. This section amends the Small Business Act to make aquaculture businesses eligible for SBA economic injury disaster loans.

Currently, the SBA determines that aquaculture includes any industry where an individual farms aquatic organisms, farming means intervention in the rearing process to enhance production—regular stocking, feeding, protection from predators. These include farmers of: algae, alligators, frogs, turtles, seaweed, clams, crawfish, pearls, fish farms/hatcheries, mussels, and oysters. Under current provisions of the Small Business Act, SBA is prohibited from providing assistance to these industries as it was wrongly assumed that they would be covered by other Federal agencies. This is because, when Congress repealed SBA disaster assistance for agricultural businesses in the 1980s, they mistakenly assumed that all of these businesses, including aquaculture businesses, would be helped by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA.

For example, oystermen who seed private grounds which they own or rent are engaged in aquaculture and are currently ineligible. Public ground oys-

termen, however, who do not have exclusive use of any area, do not farm and are eligible for SBA economic injury disaster loans. In Louisiana, our aquaculture businesses in the southern part of the State were hit hard by both Hurricane Katrina and Rita. These businesses, many crawfish farmers or those with fish farms, were ineligible for U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA, disaster assistance, but were also ineligible for SBA disaster loans. We also learned that similar problems followed Hurricanes Gustav and Ike in 2008. A more recent example of the huge problem this causes is that the SBA is currently offering \$2 million economic injury disaster loans, EIDLs, to businesses impacted by the Deepwater Horizon disaster. Since the Small Business Act currently prohibits aquaculture businesses from receiving EIDLs, they were ineligible. However, no other Federal agency, including USDA was providing assistance for this disaster. So small businesses impacted by a disaster were told. We cannot help you, even though no other Federal agency was there to fill in the gap.

In closing, I believe that the commonsense fix sent to the President today will give these businesses they help they need to recover from future disasters. Businesses involved in the farming of the following stand to benefit greatly from this new legislation: algae, alligators, frogs, turtles, seaweed, clams, crawfish, pearls, fish farms/hatcheries, mussels, and oysters. I thank the chair and ask that my entire statement and a copy of this particular provision appear in the RECORD.

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

SEC. 1501. AQUACULTURE BUSINESS DISASTER ASSISTANCE.

Section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632), as amended by section 1343, is amended by adding at the end the following: “(z) AQUACULTURE BUSINESS DISASTER ASSISTANCE.—Subject to section 18(a) and notwithstanding section 18(b)(1), the Administrator may provide disaster assistance under section 7(b)(2) to aquaculture enterprises that are small businesses.”

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR RUFUS BRADLEY, JR.

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to pay tribute to a distinguished religious leader in Saginaw, MI, Pastor Rufus Bradley, Jr. Pastor Bradley will be honored at a banquet on September 25, 2010, by his church family. The banquet will celebrate his 30 years of ministry and his 23 years as Pastor of New Life Baptist Church Ministries.

Since accepting his call to the ministry, Pastor Bradley has persistently sought to encourage and enlighten his congregation, and through these efforts, has earned the respect and admiration of people throughout Michigan. His pastoral leadership and commitment to service is admirable, and The

New Life Baptist Church Ministries has flourished under his spiritual guidance. Through his stewardship and many community-based efforts such as the “Mission in the City Movement,” Pastor Bradley has provided much needed assistance to those most in need in the greater Saginaw community.

Before becoming pastor of New Life, Pastor Bradley studied theology under the tutelage of several well-known religious leaders. He also earned a bachelor’s degree from the United Theological Seminary in Monroe, LA, and is a graduate of the Beeson Institute for Advanced Church Leadership. Pastor Bradley is a family man and is supported by his wife, Relinda Bradley. They have enjoyed 32 wonderful years together and are the proud parents of two children, June and Rufus, Jr.

I know my colleagues join me in congratulating Pastor Bradley on 30 years of pastoral leadership and faithful service to the greater Saginaw community. We wish him the best as he continues this important work for many more years.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:08 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 846. An act to award a congressional gold medal to Dr. Muhammad Yunus, in recognition of his contributions to the fight against global poverty.

S. 1055. An act to grant the congressional gold medal, collectively, to the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, United States Army, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1745. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide liability protections for volunteer practitioners at health centers under section 330 of such Act.

H.R. 3199. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants to State emergency medical service departments to provide for expedited training and licensing for veterans with prior medical training, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5307. An act to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to include ultralight vehicles under the definition of aircraft for purposes of the aviation smuggling provisions under that Act.

H.R. 5710. An act to amend and reauthorize the controlled substance monitoring program under section 3990 of the Public Health Service Act.

H.R. 5756. An act to amend subtitle D of title I of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 to provide grants and technical assistance to University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service to improve services rendered to children and adults on the autism spectrum, and their families, and for other purposes.