

Today, with over 100 participating intermediaries, the SBA microloan program is the largest Federal program of its kind. It has a proven record of giving small businesses the support they need to succeed.

One of the most important aspects of the microloan program is its ability to reach women and minorities. Often women and minorities do not have the credit history or necessary capital to get a loan from a bank or other traditional channel. This is where the microloan program steps in and provides the tools to help these business owners achieve the American dream. In fact, the microloan program has become a traditional funding source for women entrepreneurs.

That is why today's legislation is so important. The first thing that the Microloan Program Technical Corrections Act will do is remove the State formula caps. The caps were put in place in order to ensure equitable distribution of funds, but resulted in just the opposite. By removing the cap, we will be ensuring that all States have access to the program.

Additionally, the most recent Senate amendments make sure that every State and territory gets its fair share of microloan funding. Under the latest change, if the program is fully funded, each State will receive an equal part of the full appropriations. In the case that each State receives its \$800,000, any extra microloan funding will be distributed by SBA at the administrator's discretion.

I would say to my colleague, by allowing lenders with successful loan portfolios to make more loans and to provide additional technical assistance, today's legislation will only help more microenterprises grow. Providing additional technical assistance to businesses will enable entrepreneurs who are on the threshold of moving forward the opportunity to do so.

The microloan program has proved invaluable in helping America's small businesses grow. I am glad that we are moving quickly to pass this crucial legislation and that we are looking for ways to improve this important program.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I wish to acknowledge again the work of the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the work of the chairman of our committee, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. TALENT), on this important piece of legislation. I urge the support of our colleagues for its passage.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PEASE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 440.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PEASE) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 440.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONCURRENCE BY HOUSE WITH AMENDMENT TO SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 98, EXTENSION OF AVIATION WAR RISK INSURANCE PROGRAM

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 135) providing for the concurrence by the House with an amendment in the Senate amendments to H.R. 98.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 135

*Resolved*, That upon the adoption of this resolution the House shall be considered to have taken from the Speaker's table the bill H.R. 98, with the amendments of the Senate thereto, and to have—

(1) concurred in the amendment of the Senate to the title; and

(2) concurred in the amendment of the Senate to the text with the following amendment:

At the end of the Senate amendment, add the following:

Page 2, line 3, strike "March" and insert "May".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI).

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

Mr. Speaker, last month the war risk insurance program was reauthorized by the House, but only through the end of next month. We need to quickly move to reauthorize the program for a longer period of time and do it in a way that is acceptable to the Senate.

This program has operated successfully for over 47 years.

The bill would reauthorize the war risk insurance program through December 31, 2003. Insurance is an essential feature of any commercial airline operation, but ordinary business insurance operations are normally not willing, and certainly not at normal rates, to insure flights to high-risk areas such as countries at war or on the verge of war.

In many cases, flights into these dangerous situations, however, are re-

quired to further our Nation's foreign policy or national security objectives. On many occasions in the past, commercial airlines, rather than military planes, have been used to move materiel and troops into war-type areas including, for example, most recently during Desert Storm-Desert Shield operations and other conflicts.

Without the war risk program, commercial airlines would not have flown these military flights, and therefore the Department of Defense would have had to grant or purchase aircraft at a cost to the taxpayers of millions of dollars, if not billions.

Although the program is not currently being used in Kosovo, it could be needed at any time and, therefore, we cannot afford to allow the program to lapse. The bill before the House now is virtually the same as the bill that we passed last February, but the Senate dropped a provision in the bill involving unrelated technical changes to the centennial of flight commission. Therefore, we need to pass this bill and send it back to the Senate. I would urge support for the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 135, a bill to extend the war risk insurance program through 2003. This program allows the Federal Aviation Administration to issue insurance to airlines flying into war zones when it is in the national interest for the airlines to do so and commercial insurance is not available on reasonable terms.

The war risk insurance program was first authorized in 1951 and it has served the country well. Since 1975, the nonpremium option under the war risk insurance program alone has been activated over 5,000 times. Recently it has been used in support of Operations Desert Shield and Storm in the Middle East, Operation Restore Hope in Somalia, Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti and Operation Joint Endeavor in Bosnia.

As Members can see from its scope, it has been an active part of our Nation's foreign policy and national security efforts.

In March, we extended this program for only 2 months until May 31, 1999. With the continuing activities in the Persian Gulf and the current situation in Kosovo, it would be unfortunate to allow this program to expire. I would hope that we could quickly pass this legislation to avoid any lapse in this crucial program.

I want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. DUNCAN), the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) for their leadership, and I urge my House colleagues to support H. Res. 135.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 135.

The question was taken.

Mr. PETRI. 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.

**AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR OPENING CEREMONIES OF SUNRAYCE 99**

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 48) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the opening ceremonies of Sunrayce 99.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 48

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),*

**SECTION 1. USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR OPENING CEREMONIES OF SUNRAYCE 99.**

The organizers of Sunrayce 99 (in this resolution referred to as the "sponsor") shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, with solar-powered cars, on the Capitol Grounds on June 20, 1999, or on such other dates as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate may jointly designate, to conduct opening ceremonies for Sunrayce 99.

**SEC. 2. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The event authorized by section 1 shall be free of admission charge to the public and arranged not to interfere with the needs of Congress, under conditions to be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board.

(b) EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES.—The sponsor shall assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities incident to all activities associated with the event.

**SEC. 3. EVENT PREPARATIONS.**

(a) STRUCTURES AND EQUIPMENT.—Subject to the approval of the Architect of the Capitol, the sponsor may erect upon the Capitol Grounds such stage, sound amplification devices, and other related structures and equipment as may be required for the event authorized by section 1.

(b) ADDITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.—The Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board are authorized to make any such additional arrangements as may be required to carry out the event, including arrangements to limit access to First Street between Independence Avenue Southwest and Constitution Avenue Northwest.

**SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.**

The Capitol Police Board shall provide for enforcement of the restrictions contained in section 4 of the Act of July 31, 1946 (40 U.S.C. 193d; 60 Stat. 718), concerning sales, displays,

and solicitations on the Capitol Grounds, as well as other restrictions applicable to the Capitol Grounds, with respect to the event authorized by section 1.

**SEC. 5. LIMITATION ON REPRESENTATIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The event authorized by section 1 may be conducted only after the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board enter into an agreement with the sponsor that prohibits the sponsor—

(1) from representing, either directly or indirectly, that this resolution or any activity carried out under this resolution in any way constitutes approval or endorsement by the Federal Government of any product or service offered by the sponsor; and

(2) from using any photograph taken at the event for a commercial purpose.

(b) PENALTIES.—The agreement shall provide for financial penalties to be imposed if any photograph is used in violation of this section.

□ 1500

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE).

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

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 48 authorizes the use of the Capitol grounds for the Sunrayce '99 solar power car event to be held on June 20th, 1999, or on such date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration jointly designate.

The resolution also authorizes the Architect of the Capitol, the Capitol Police Board, and the sponsor of the event to negotiate the necessary arrangements for carrying out the event in complete compliance with the rules and regulations governing the use of the Capitol grounds.

The event is open to the public and free of charge, and the sponsor will assume responsibility for all expenses and liabilities related to the event. In addition, sales, advertisements, and solicitations are explicitly prohibited on the Capitol grounds for this event.

The Capitol grounds will be used for the opening ceremonies for the solar power car event that will begin at the Capitol and after traversing through five States, conclude in Orlando, Florida. Intercollegiate men and women from all over the United States have taken part in the development of the solar power cars. Scholarship achievement awards will be awarded to participants that display exceptional levels of technical innovation, engineering excellence, artistic excellence, teamwork, and good sportsmanship.

This day will highlight the importance of and help us develop a better understanding for the many different uses of solar energy. I support this resolution, and urge my colleagues to join in support.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 48 authorizes the use of the Capitol grounds for the Sunrayce '99 solar powered car event scheduled to be held on the Capitol grounds on June 20, 1999. During this event, college women and men who have designed and developed their own solar power cars will begin a five-State run from the Capitol grounds to Orlando, Florida.

In addition to highlighting the innovation and ingenuity of design and engineering by the college students, the event will emphasize the power and benefits of solar energy.

General Motors, Electronic Data Systems, and the Energy Department are once again cosponsors of the event. The event's sponsors will assume all responsibility for expenses and liabilities related to the event. As with all Capitol event, sales, advertisements, and solicitations are explicitly prohibited on the Capitol grounds for the event.

I support House Concurrent Resolution 48 and urge its passage.

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I want to thank Congressman BUD SHUSTER, Chairman of the Transportation Committee, for moving H. Con. Res. 48 through the Committee and to the Floor so expeditiously.

The resolution we are considering today will permit the organizers of Sunrayce 99 to sponsor a public event, with solar-powered cars, on the Capitol Grounds on June 20, 1999, or on such other dates as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate may jointly designate, to conduct opening ceremonies for Sunrayce 99.

As the Chairman and co-founder of the House Renewable Energy Caucus I appreciate the innovation necessary to identify and utilize alternative forms of energy. As we move into the 21st Century, one of the critical environmental challenges facing us is the need to discover the possibilities of sustainable energy development, so that our children, and their families will be able to enjoy the clean air and environment that is so important to the health of our nation.

From June 20–29 the world will watch as up to 40 teams participate in Sunrayce 99 and demonstrate good-spirited competition and innovation at its best. The teams will race through five states, from the start in Washington, DC, to the finish at Epcot at Walt Disney World Resort near Orlando, Florida in the nation's premier solar powered vehicle event.

Sunrayce 99 showcases the imagination, ingenuity and teamwork of graduate and undergraduate teams from North America in the development of highly efficient vehicles powered solely by a viable, renewable and sustainable energy source—the sun. I am proud to note that the University of Arizona has registered a team. General Motors, Electronic Data Systems and the U.S. Department of Energy are the sponsors of this biennial intercollegiate competition.

The top three finishing teams will receive trophies and cash awards. Scholarship