



Office of Representative Heath Shuler

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District

For Immediate Release

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Rep. Shuler Alerts Small Business Owners to Approaching Disaster Loan Deadline *Most WNC Businesses have until January 24th to Apply*

Washington, D.C. – Representative Heath Shuler today reminded small business owners in most Western North Carolina counties who suffered losses due to the Easter freeze that they have until January 24, 2008 to apply for federal economic injury loans through the U.S. Small Business Administration.

The January 24th deadline applies to small business owners in Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, and Transylvania counties.

“The Easter freeze had a significant economic impact that reached beyond just our farmers. I encourage those small business owners who suffered losses due to the freeze and still need help to apply for these disaster loans by January 24th. As the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Rural and Urban Entrepreneurship, I will continue working to make sure that our small businesses have the resources they need to remain open and competitive” Rep. Shuler said.

The SBA disaster loans are available to farm-related and nonfarm-related small businesses and small agricultural cooperatives that suffered a financial loss as a direct result of the Easter freeze. Eligible small businesses may qualify for loans up to \$1.5 million. The loans are available at a 4 percent interest rate with terms up to 30 years.

Interested business owners should contact the SBA's Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. (EST). Loan applications can also be downloaded at www.sba.gov. Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Forth Worth, TX 76155.

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