

THE WICKER REPORT

By: United States Senator Roger Wicker



Wicker urges new relief for military supply businesses

Weakened defense supply chain puts American security at risk

This past week, senators returned to Capitol Hill to resume work on major legislative priorities. For the 60th consecutive year, the Senate passed the National Defense Authorization Act to set new spending levels for our military. This legislation would approve new military training and technology, a pay raise for our troops, and new ships to strengthen our naval fleet.

With this legislation passed, the Senate is turning its attention to another major need: coronavirus relief. It has been six months now since COVID-19 spread onto the world stage, and it is still taking a heavy toll on our economy and our daily lives. The Senate intends to build on the CARES Act passed in March to help American families, workers, and businesses recover from this crisis. As this legislation comes together, I am working to make sure our military supply chain is not left behind. These workers and businesses are critical to our economic recovery and national security.

Sustaining a Key Sector of Our Economy

The military depends on thousands of businesses and manufacturers spread across America to keep our Armed Forces supplied. These firms work on tight production schedules and often operate on narrow profits.

The pandemic has brought severe disruption and uncertainty to our defense supply chain. Social distancing requirements have slowed the pace of production, and many workers have had to stay home to care for children not in school or for family members in quarantine. With the virus continuing to spread, it is unclear when many of these employees will be able to return to their jobs. This uncertainty is weakening the manufacturing industry and could hurt our military's defense posture.

Congress has not yet approved funds to mitigate losses in this industry. If nothing is done, the military could have to divert \$11 billion from its core priorities to shore up defense manufacturing firms. This would

Woodward Hines Education Foundation, MSU partner to provide \$400,000 grant supporting student degree completion

Press Release

Mississippi State students will benefit from a five-year, \$200,000 grant commitment from the Woodward Hines Education Foundation (WHEF)—matched by \$200,000 from the university—to support college retention and degree completion through the Improving Mississippi's Persistence and Completion Together, or IMPACT, initiative.

For nearly 25 years, endowed nonprofit WHEF has worked to promote and increase postsecondary access among underrepresented young Mississippians, and more recently, has expanded its mission to support increased credential and degree completion leading to meaningful employment.

“The need to support students and to improve the rates of college completion among Mississippians has always existed. But in light of COVID, the need has never been greater and more pressing,” said WHEF President and CEO

Jim McHale. “According to a Georgetown University study, it is estimated that 65% of all jobs require some kind of postsecondary education. Currently, Mississippi sits at 45.2%.”

“To improve the lives of Mississippians, support Mississippi's economic recovery and competitively position our state within a global economy, there is a critical need to not only have more students enroll in college, but to have them successfully complete their degree or credential,” McHale said.

Grant selection was part of a competitive request for proposals, said MSU Maroon Completion Grant Project Lead and Financial Literacy Coordinator John Daniels.

Daniels said Mississippi State's Maroon Completion Grant program will directly assist an estimated 400 low-income MSU students who have unmet financial need and are on track for graduation within one year.

MSU Vice President for Student Affairs Regina Hyatt said the Maroon Completion Grant Program will “improve the graduation rate of our Mississippi students with the highest financial need and decrease the differential margin of our underrepresented students in attaining degrees.”

WHEF envisions a Mississippi where all people can secure the training and education beyond high school that will allow them to advance their quality of life, strengthen their communities and contribute to a vibrant and prosperous future for the state. For more, visit <https://woodwardhines.org>.

Conservation Corner

by James Cummins  
Executive Director  
of Wildlife Mississippi

Many small bodies of water do not produce the amount of fish desired by the owner because of poor planning, bad construction, or a lack of good management. A good pond or small lake depends on location, design, construction, stocking rate, and management practices such as harvest, fertilization, and weed control. Often, ponds can produce 5 to 10 times more pounds of fish if proper techniques are followed.

Ponds or small lakes should be at least 0.5 acres in size and constructed so that at least 20 percent of the area is 6 feet or greater in depth. All ponds should have a drain, overflow pipe, and emergency spillway for best management. A drain will allow one to manage the water level of the pond, which is often necessary for weed control and managing fish populations.

Regarding pond dams, many pond owners do not control woody vegetation on the dam. When large trees die, or are cut, deteriorating roots can leave a hole in the dam, causing major structural problems which are expensive to fix. No woody vegetation should be allowed

to grow on pond dams.

Once your pond has been constructed, adding fish-attracting, artificial structures can greatly increase harvest. Structures can be created using trees such as blackjack oak or old Christmas trees, or logs. Structure design can also vary. For example, one proven design consists of three or four trees that are crossed to form a pyramid. The bases of the trees should be braced together using 6-foot-long pieces of lumber. Holes should be driven through the base of the trees and weights attached using #12 UF cable. These structures will stand upright on the bottom and have a height between 10 and 16 feet.

Artificial structures can either be set out singly or in groups of three to five trees in either a triangular setup or set in a line down the slope of drops-offs. Structures should be weighted with concrete blocks (2.0 to 2.5 feet in length) weighing approximately 60 pounds each. They should be placed in 5 to 10 feet of water near points, creek channels, or artificial drop-offs. For ponds less than 1 acre, one fish structure is plenty. Otherwise, use one fish structure per 2 or 3 acres.

Spawning beds for bream are also useful for catching fish. Spawning beds are made by covering portions of the pond with gravel to create areas desired by bream. Spawning beds should be located in 2 to 4 feet of water near locations that are convenient for fishing. Use 3 to 5 cubic yards of washed gravel (0.5 to 1.0 inch in diameter) and place so that a spawning site approximately 12 to 15 feet in diameter is created. One should avoid sites that have a sedimentation problem..

James L. Cummins is executive director of Wildlife Mississippi, a non-profit, conservation organization founded to conserve, restore and enhance fish, wildlife and plant resources throughout Mississippi. Their web site is [www.wildlifemiss.org](http://www.wildlifemiss.org).

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Obituaries

DAVID GIBSON

David Gibson, 69, of Pickens, passed on Sunday, July 26, 2020. Graveside services will be held at Anderson Greer Cemetery in Yazoo County on Saturday, August 1, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. Visitation will be held Friday, July 31, 2020 between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. at 300 West Madison Street in Durant. Services are entrusted to Affordable Funeral Home of Durant.

JOE C. ROUNDTREE

Joe C. Roundtree, 65, of Sallis, passed on Saturday, July 25, 2020. Graveside services will be held at the old Hill Springs Cemetery in Sallis County on Saturday, August 1, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. Visitation will be held Friday, July 31, 2020 between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. at 300 West Madison Street in Durant. Services are entrusted to Affordable Funeral Home of Durant.

NOTICE:

If you have relatives buried at Gages Spring Cemetery located in Durant, MS, please contact Madeline Coleman at 662-834-2344 as soon as possible.

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Send in your news!

The Holmes County Herald welcomes reader submissions for news, events and photos for publication in our weekly newspaper. To submit items, email to: [hcherald@gmail.com](mailto:hcherald@gmail.com)

Please include all pertinent details, dates, location, name of the event or occasion, all associated people, organizations or groups, reason for event or occasion and NAMES OF ALL PEOPLE PICTURED IN ANY PHOTOGRAPH.

We look forward to hearing from you!

-Holmes County Herald Staff