

CHARLIE MELANCON
3RD DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND COMMERCE

COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 13, 2007

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The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
H-107, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James Clyburn
Majority Whip
H-329, The Capitol

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Hoyer, and Majority Whip Clyburn:

Governor Kathleen Blanco recently revealed that the Road Home program will have a funding shortfall. It is extremely important to the full recovery and rebuilding of Louisiana that Congress immediately addresses this issue.

I ask you to please meet with Governor Blanco and me to discuss the funding problems that Louisiana is facing. In my invitation to Governor Blanco to meet with me, I asked that she address the following questions.

- (1) How much money remains in your budget for housing recovery? What is your projected shortfall?
- (2) If you have a shortfall, what is your plan to compensate for deficient funds?
- (3) What is the progress of grant allocations through your housing recovery program? (Including applications received, benefits calculated, and awards granted.)

Because the House of Representatives appropriations process for FY08 is quickly drawing to a close, I asked that she come to Washington, D.C. early next week. Please let me know if you can accommodate this request.

I am proud of the work this Congress, under your leadership, has done to address the great needs of the Gulf Coast. My constituents and I thank you for your continued support of Gulf Coast recovery and rebuilding.

Sincerely,

CHARLIE MELANCON
Member of Congress

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SENT VIA AIRMAIL AND FACSIMILIE

Governor Kathleen B. Blanco
900 3rd Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear Governor Blanco:

Full recovery from the devastation left in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita will take time, but you are not alone in your efforts to rebuild. Congress has appropriated billions of dollars for the recovery and rebuilding of the Gulf Coast, and the Louisiana delegation and the House Democratic leadership continue to fight for Louisiana's recovery.

You maintain that the funds allocated to Louisiana are not proportional to the damage the state has suffered. You have more recently reported potential funding shortfalls for the Road Home program. If Louisiana does not have sufficient funds to fully rebuild, the Louisiana government and Congress need to immediately address these deficiencies.

I would like to invite you to meet with my Leadership to discuss the progress of rebuilding the devastated areas of Louisiana, specifically the Road Home program. Some issues I would like to discuss in particular are

- (1) How much money remains in your budget for housing recovery? What is your projected shortfall?
- (2) If you have a shortfall, what is your plan to compensate for deficient funds?
- (3) What is the progress of grant allocations through your housing recovery program? (Including applications received, benefits calculated, and awards granted.)

Because the House of Representatives appropriations process for FY08 is quickly drawing to a close, we need to address these issues very soon should we determine that an additional congressional appropriation or other legislative fix is necessary. If at all possible, I would like to meet with you early next week. Please contact me as soon as possible to set a time that we can meet.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlie Melancon".

CHARLIE MELANCON
Member of Congress