

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
March 9, 2007

WASHINGTON OFFICE
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124 EAST MAIN STREET
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(337) 367-8231

Thomas Dorr
Undersecretary for Rural Development
USDA
Mail Stop 0107
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Undersecretary Dorr:

I write this letter on behalf of the Town of Golden Meadow in support of their application for funding to construct a multi-use emergency response command center building that will provide a secure base of operation for first responders in the event of a catastrophic disaster. The need for such a facility was clearly demonstrated during both Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita.

Golden Meadow proposed to fund the project through USDA Rural Development funds appropriated in the wake of these storms to assist communities in recovery and preparation for future disasters.

My office has been informed that USDA Rural Development has responded with a loan offer of \$358,000.00 and a grant offer of \$750,000.00. While the town is appreciative for this assistance, it also has limited resources and is developing this facility as a public service—it will generate no revenue. In light of this, I request that you make every effort to provide 100 percent grant funding for this important project.

The supplemental appropriation which provided these funds was intended to help rebuild and prepare for future disasters. Golden Meadow's multi-use command center provides a good example of rural development funds that could go a long way towards preparing small communities for the quickly approaching 2007 hurricane season.

Thanks again for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

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

Charlie Melancon
Member of Congress

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Clyde Holloway
Louisiana State Director
USDA Rural Development
3727 Government Street
Alexandria, LA 71302

Dear Mr. Holloway:

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