

the **JEFFERSON**

R E P O R T



U.S. House of Representatives

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Congressman Jefferson Passes Katrina Bills

Congressman Jefferson has been working tirelessly to pass effective legislation that will help the citizens of Louisiana find their way home and assist the businesses and governments in getting back on their feet as well. He has already passed three important bills.

The Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005, sponsored by U.S. Representative William Jefferson (D-LA) and Rep. Jim McCrery (R-LA), passed in the U.S. House of Representatives on September 15, 2005. "This legislation provides much needed aid and comfort to the victims of Hurricane Katrina and the good Samaritans who have opened their arms, opened their wallets and opened their homes to the thousands of Americans who were uprooted in the wake of this horrible storm," Jefferson said.

The bill does the following to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina:

- **Holds families harmless against the loss of tax benefits due to temporary relocations.**

Under current law, a prolonged change in a family's living situation could affect eligibility for various tax benefits. The bill allows individuals to use their 2004 income to calculate the child credit and the Earned Income Credit on their 2005 tax returns and it applies to individuals who lived in the affected areas. It also grants the U.S. Treasury Department authority to ensure that taxpayers do not lose dependency exemptions or child credits for 2005 due to temporary relocations.

- **Ensures that families are not taxed on forgiven debt.**

Under current law, amounts received from forgiven debt are generally treated as taxable income. The bill ensures that individuals affected by the hurricane are not taxed on

personal debt relief, such as the cancellation of a mortgage, provided before 2007.

- **Provides tax relief for housing assistance to dislocated persons.**

The bill creates a special tax deduction for individuals who provide rent-free housing to dislocated persons for at least 60 days. The deduction is \$500 for each dislocated person housed in the individual's principal residence (up to a maximum of \$2,000). It can be claimed in either 2005 or 2006, but cannot be claimed in both years with respect to the same person.

- **Allows full deductibility of personal casualty losses.**

Under current law, individuals who itemize their deductions may deduct personal casualty losses to the extent they exceed 10 percent of adjusted gross income and a \$100 floor. The bill allows individuals to fully recover their losses by waiving the 10-percent and \$100 floors.

- **Waives 10-percent tax on early distributions from IRAs and pensions for individuals affected by the hurricane.**

Distributions from IRAs and pensions are subject to a 10-percent penalty if they are made before a certain age. The penalty is intended to discourage individuals from withdrawing funds that are needed for retirement. To ease the financial burden faced by many families in the disaster area, the bill allows individuals to withdraw a maximum of \$100,000 from their IRAs and pensions without paying the 10-percent penalty. Income tax on the distribution may be paid over three years, and the amount can be repaid to the IRA or pension plan without regard to the annual contribution limits. The bill also increases

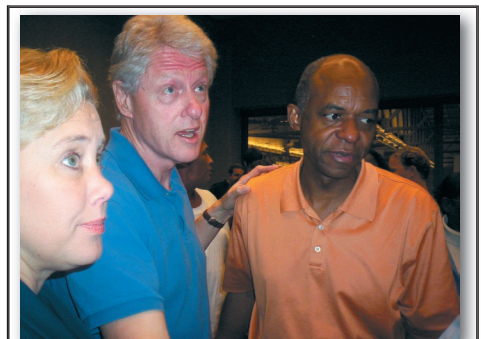
the limit on loans from pension plans from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

- **Extension of Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) to individuals affected by the hurricane.**

The bill allows employers within the disaster area to claim the WOTC if they hire individuals who lived in the disaster area prior to the hurricane and became unemployed as a result of damage or destruction to their workplace. The maximum credit is \$2,400 (generally, 40 percent of the first \$6,000 of wages) and is available through 2007.

- **Provides a longer period of time to replace damaged property without incurring tax.**

Under current law, insurance proceeds are not taxable if they are invested in replacement property within two years (with respect to damaged business property) or four years (with respect to damaged principal residences). The bill increases the reinvestment period to five years as long as the replacement property is located within the disaster area.



Jefferson, Senator Mary Landrieu, and former President Bill Clinton listen to citizens' concerns about relief efforts in New Orleans.

• **Expands the availability of below-market mortgages in the disaster areas.**

Under current law, state and local governments may issue mortgage revenue bonds (MRBs) to finance low-interest rate mortgages for first time homebuyers who meet certain income and purchase price limits. The bill waives the first time homebuyer requirement so that individuals whose homes were damaged by the hurricane can qualify for these low-interest rate mortgages through 2007.

The bill also provides the following incentives to charitable organizations:

• **Encourages cash donations by individuals.**

Under current law, individuals may deduct charitable donations up to 50 percent of their adjusted gross income. Deductions for charitable donations are further limited by the phase-out of itemized deductions. The bill lifts these limitations for cash donations related to Hurricane Katrina if made before January 2006.

• **Encourages cash donations by corporations**

Under current law, corporations may deduct charitable donations up to 10 percent of their taxable income. The bill waives the 10-percent income limitation for cash donations related to Hurricane Katrina if made before January 2006.

• **Increases the mileage reimbursement rate for charitable donations deductions.**

Individuals may claim a tax deduction for the costs associated with using a personal vehicle for charitable work. The deduction is calculated by using a mileage reimbursement rate of 14 cents-per-gallon. The reimbursement rate for business use currently stands at 48.5 cents-per-gallon. The bill sets the mileage reimbursement rate for charitable contributions at 70 percent of the standard business mileage rate.

Congressman Jefferson led passage of the **Gulf Opportunity Zone Public Finance Act of 2005** on December 16, 2005. The bipartisan bill provides critical tools to access the capital and resources that cities, school boards, parishes/counties and states whose tax bases were ravaged when Hurricanes Katrina and Rita came ashore need to function and recover.

“Our state, our city, and our parish governments are facing extreme financial

hardships since hurricanes devastated the Gulf Coast,” Jefferson argued in debate on the House floor. “This bill will assist state and local governments by providing more cash-on-hand; giving states the resources to assist their local governments to meet bond debt obligations; and helping regions meet the matching fund requirement for federal disaster assistance. It will put state and local governments in a much better position to make the important choices they confront as we continue our recovery.”

The bill includes the following provisions:

1. **Additional Advance Refunding**—Bonds issued in the Gulf Opportunity Zone States (Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama) will receive one additional advance refunding before January 2011, subject to certain rules. The amount of the bonds eligible for refunding is limited to \$4.5 billion for Louisiana, \$2.25 billion for Mississippi, and \$1.125 billion for Alabama. Similar to refinancing a home or car loan, this allows municipalities to extend the life of the bond or lower the interest rate and use the realized savings immediately for other purposes. Reliable sources have reported that this provision alone could free up at least \$400 million for use throughout Louisiana.

2. **Gulf Tax Credit Bond Facilities for Debt Service**—Authorizes Gulf Opportunity Zone States to issue debt service tax credit bonds providing credits against Federal income tax instead of interest payments, so that these States can provide assistance to communities unable to meet their debt service requirements as a result of the hurricanes. Bonds would be required to mature before January 1, 2008. At least 95 percent of bond proceeds must be used to redeem or to pay principal, interest or premiums on outstanding bond, and such proceeds so used must be matched by an equal amount of State funds. The allocation of bonds per State would be \$200 million for Louisiana, \$100 million for Mississippi and \$50 million for Alabama.

Jefferson’s third bill is an expansive tax bill that creates a “Gulf Opportunity (GO) Zone” (the “Zone”) comprised of the counties and parishes in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama that were designated as warranting individual or public and individual assistance by reason of Hurricane Katrina. The bill creates tax incentives to help revitalize and rebuild communities in the Zone.

It includes the following provisions:

• **Increases incentives to rebuild housing.**

Expands the allocation and size of the low-income housing tax credit in the Zone.

- ⇒ Provides an emergency allocation of low-income housing tax credits in 2006, 2007 and 2008. The emergency allocation is \$18.00 multiplied by each State’s population in the Zone (based on 2004 Census estimates). This amount is more than nine times larger than the current-law allocation of \$1.90 per capita. The increased allocation must be used to build housing in the Zone and may not be carried forward from year to year.
- ⇒ Increases the size of the credit from 100 percent of qualifying project costs to 130 percent of such costs by designating the Zone as a “Difficult Development Area” in 2006, 2007 and 2008. The increased credit would also apply to historic buildings, which are already eligible for the Rehabilitation Credit under current law.

• **Increases the Rehabilitation Tax Credit to help restore commercial buildings**

Increases the credit from 10 percent of qualified expenditures to 13 percent for qualified rehabilitated buildings in the Zone. The credit is increased from 20 percent to 26 percent for certified historic structures. This provision applies to qualifying expenses incurred through December 31, 2008.

• **Grants Treasury Department the authority to extend the period for deductibility of travel expenses in case of major disaster.**

In the event of a major disaster, Treasury may extend the period during which housing and travel expenses incurred away from home remain deductible.

• **Provides 50-percent bonus depreciation to help businesses rebuild in the Zone.**

Permits businesses to claim an *additional* first-year depreciation deduction equal to 50 percent of the cost of new property investments made in the Zone. The additional deduction applies to purchased computer software, leasehold improvements, certain commercial and residential real estate expenditures and equipment. All depreciation deductions (including bonus depreciation) would be exempt from the AMT. The provision applies to property placed in service through December 31, 2007 (December 31, 2008 for real property).

• Provides enhanced section 179 expensing to assist small businesses.

Current law permits eligible small businesses to expense up to \$100,000 of qualifying investments. Eligible small businesses are defined as those with less than \$400,000 of annual investments. The bill doubles the amount that may be expensed under section 179 (from \$100,000 to \$200,000) for investments made in the Zone. It also increases the phase-out floor from \$400,000 of annual investments to \$1 million. The higher phase-out ensures that section 179 expensing remains available to small businesses even if they have extraordinary investments in one year due to rebuilding after the hurricane. The provision expires after December 31, 2007.

• Speeds rebuilding efforts by temporarily reducing demolition and cleanup costs.

Permits businesses to expense 50 percent of cleanup and demolition costs in the Zone. In addition, brownfield expensing is extended and expanded to include brownfield sites in the Zone that are contaminated by petroleum products. Both incentives expire after December 31, 2007.

• Incentives and relief for small timber owners.

Allows small timber owners (i.e., those owning less than 500 acres of timber in the Zone to expense \$20,000 – as opposed to \$10,000 under current law) of reforestation costs incurred from August 27, 2005 through 2006. In addition, small timber owners may elect a five-year carryback of net operating losses occurred after August 27, 2005 and before 2007. These incentives are also available to eligible counties and parishes affected by Hurricane Rita because the geographic proximity of the damage compounded the negative effect on small timber owners.

• Net Operating Loss (NOL) carryback.

Allows business a five-year carryback of NOLs attributable to investment in the Zone. This provision is available for tax years ending before 2009. An additional rule permits Katrina-related casualty losses associated with public utility property in the Zone to be carried back 10 years.

• Creates additional tax-exempt bond authority to help rebuild devastated infrastructure in the GO Zone.

Provides Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama the authority to issue a special class of private

activity bonds, called GO Zone Bonds, outside of the state volume caps. Bond authority is approximately \$7.9 billion for Louisiana, \$4.8 billion for Mississippi and \$2.1 billion for Alabama. These amounts are based on each State's population in the Zone, according to 2004 U.S. Census estimates.

- ⇒ GO Zone Bonds can be issued by States and municipalities. Bond proceeds can be used to pay for acquisition, construction, and renovation of nonresidential real property, qualified low-income residential rental housing, single-family residential housing, and public utility property (e.g., gas, water, electric and telecommunication lines) located in the Zone.
- ⇒ The current low-income housing targeting rules are relaxed so that more bond proceeds can be used to rebuild housing in the Zone.
- ⇒ Up to \$150,000 of GO Zone mortgage revenue bonds may be used to repair homes (as opposed to \$15,000 under current law). In addition, the first-time homebuyer rule is waived.
- ⇒ Interest payments on the bonds are not subject to the AMT.
- ⇒ The authority to issue GO Zone Bonds expires after December 31, 2010.

• Gulf Coast Recovery Bonds.

Expresses the sense of Congress that one or more series of savings bonds should be designated as “Gulf Coast Recovery Bonds.”

The GO Zone restoration tax incentives will not be extended to the following types of businesses or investments: Country clubs, facilities used for gambling, hot tub facilities, liquor stores, massage parlors, private or commercial golf courses, racetracks, and suntan facilities.



Jefferson listens to constituents' concerns regarding hurricane relief efforts as they assess damaged property in New Orleans.

Jefferson Works to Improve Baker Bill for Hurricane Victims

Jefferson also worked with Representative Richard Baker (R-LA) to amend his bill, H.R. 4100, which will establish the Louisiana Recovery Corporation. Jefferson proposed changes to ensure that the victims of hurricanes are able to receive adequate compensation for their properties. Originally, the bill proposed providing “post-event fair market value” for homes lost in the hurricane – or the value of the home after the hurricane – which in most cases was significantly less than what it was before the storm. In a letter, Baker committed to accepting Jefferson's recommended changes in his bill. Baker says the new language “will eliminate the phrase ‘post-event fair market value’ and direct the Corporation, when determining property value to be guided by”:

- A pre-event appraisal in a verifiable loan record held by any federally insured bank, credit union, or housing-related government sponsored enterprise (Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, et);
- The pre-event assessed value of the property on record by a unit of local government that serves as the basis for determining property taxes; and,
- The pre-event fair market value as would be determined under existing federal hazard mitigation programs as authorized under the Stafford Act and the National Flood Insurance Act.

With these and other suggested changes added to the language of H.R. 4100, Jefferson has agreed to cosponsor the legislation. ■

FEMA Needs Viable Long-term Housing Plan

Congressman Jefferson fired off a letter to Acting Federal Emergency Management Director R. David Paulison expressing strong objections to FEMA's decision to end short-term hotel assistance for hurricane victims with no viable long-term housing transition plan in place.

"Given FEMA's spotty record of providing benefits to evacuees and the slow pace of current FEMA housing programs in Louisiana, I am highly doubtful that FEMA's goal to relocate these nine thousand families by December 1 be met," he wrote. "Every effort should be made to ensure that residents evacuated during Hurricane Katrina are settled close to the New Orleans metropolitan area, and are provided with safe, clean, affordable and viable housing."

"Too often, I hear from constituents who are simply overwhelmed by

the myriad of steps needed to take just to obtain a travel trailer," he wrote. "Neither the available housing stock nor the travel trailer supply can come close to adequately meeting the demands of these individuals. Throwing people out of hotels and onto the street by an arbitrary deadline hardly meets the standard for a viable, long-term housing and resettlement strategy, and I strongly encourage FEMA to take the appropriate steps necessary to remedy this situation."

Following Congressman Jefferson's letter and conferences with FEMA officials, FEMA announced new deadlines, up to February 7th for evacuees housed in hotels, and a faster paced program for trailer availability for evacuees. ■

Congressman Jefferson Urges Mortgage Lenders to Continue Relief Efforts

(Washington, D.C.) – U.S. Representative William Jefferson (D-LA) met with the John H. Dalton, President of the Financial Services Roundtable's Housing Policy Council, and other industry leaders in New Orleans to discuss his concern about the end of the 90-day mortgage moratorium for hurricane victims. Jefferson wrote Dalton and Jonathan L. Kempner, President and CEO of the Mortgage Bankers' Association, letters urging them to work with homeowners to continue

offering mortgage relief. Kempner and Dalton responded with letters and both agreed to meet with Jefferson to discuss this important issue.

"As the initial 90-day window of moratoria and deferrals closes, I am concerned that the uniformity of relief across your industry is beginning to erode," Jefferson wrote. "With that in mind, I am interested in working together with you, your members and others in the industry to bring greater certainty to the many whose lives have been shattered by the storms."

Kempner responded: "What we do not expect with the end of the initial 90-day forbearance period is a wave of new foreclosures, which are not good for anyone, not the homeowner, the community, or the lender," he wrote. "We also do not expect lenders to demand immediate re-payment of the three months of deferred payments except in rare cases. Instead, lenders will work with borrowers to create re-payment plans for the missed payments."

Dalton echoed Kempner's news and added, "Lenders do not anticipate reporting late payments during the deferral period with the credit bureaus if the inability to pay was due to hardships resulting from Katrina. Moreover, the mortgage industry continues to work with the credit bureaus on a method of handling payment activity during the deferral period. This will permit lenders to take the circumstances of the borrower during this time into account when future credit requests are considered."

Both mortgage industry leaders encouraged borrowers to contact their lenders immediately. "The most important message for any homeowner in distress is to contact his or her lender as soon as possible," Dalton wrote. "This is the best way for the borrower and lender to work together to find solutions to the borrower's individual situations."

As Jefferson met with Dalton already, Kempner agreed to meet with him soon to discuss the steps his organization is taking to ensure that both lenders and homeowners are able to move forward during this very difficult financial crisis. ■

Dear Friends:

The past few months have been devastating for South Louisiana: our citizens are displaced; families are separated; hundreds of thousands of homes are destroyed.

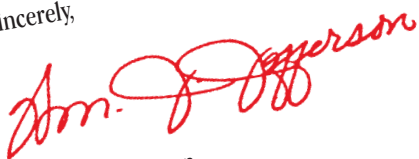
Hope is not lost. While the transition period for the City of New Orleans and surrounding areas will be challenging, I am committed to working in Congress to ensure that our local needs are met and that our city is rebuilt bigger, better and for all our citizens to return.

In the coming months, I will be sending updates from FEMA, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Health and Human Services and other federal agencies that may be helpful to you. Also, please check our website, www.house.gov/jefferson regularly for updates on temporary housing, federal contract opportunities, and other important information.

My New Orleans downtown office has reopened as well, so you may call the local office at (504) 589-2274 or you can reach my Washington, D.C. office by calling TOLL-FREE 1-866-498-6161 to speak to me or my staff about hurricane-related issues.

We will persevere. New Orleans will be back. Working with you, I am committed to making sure that happens. Please join me in rebuilding our region and our lives.

Sincerely,



William J. Jefferson
Member of Congress

FEMA Update: Disaster Aid Scenarios

The following is a news release from the Federal Emergency Management Agency which describes scenarios under which victims are eligible for Disaster Assistance:

Disaster programs from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State of Louisiana are designed to provide disaster victims with a safe place to live and to help individuals and families begin the process of recovery.

Below are examples of various situations in which victims of the hurricanes may find themselves and the kinds of assistance FEMA and other federal and state programs may offer. Each case is treated individually, and every situation is different. Victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita can get help started with a single phone call. Anyone suffering storm-related damage can register with FEMA by calling **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for people who are speech- or hearing-impaired, or by visiting www.fema.gov.

Home destroyed, homeowner insured

A homeowner's house was destroyed, and she has been able to stay with friends. She has insurance, and because she has no emergency expenses not covered by her insurance, she is not eligible for an emergency grant from FEMA. She may be eligible for a low-interest disaster loan from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to help repair her disaster-damaged home to its pre-disaster condition.

Home destroyed, homeowner underinsured

Another homeowner has flood insurance that covers the cost of repairs to his home and the contents. However, he has had to move out of the building while the repairs are being made, and the policy does not cover the cost of the rent. He may be eligible for assistance from FEMA to cover the cost of rent.

Home damaged, homeowner not insured

A third homeowner has several thousand dollars in damage to her property, but does not have flood insurance. She may be able to get a grant from FEMA to cover the necessary costs to make her home safe and livable. She also may be eligible for a low-interest disaster loan from the SBA to help her repair her disaster-damaged home to its pre-disaster condition. Homeowners who have already started making repairs should save their receipts, and it is recommended that they take photos or have other proof of the damage.

Renters

An apartment building was damaged, and the renters had to move out. The renters may be able to get a grant from FEMA to cover rent at a new location for a transitional period if they do not have insurance to cover temporary rental. Each case is reviewed on an individual basis. The same is true for renters of houses. Renters also are eligible to apply for a low-interest disaster loan from the SBA to repair or replace their personal property if it was damaged by the storms. The owner of the apartment complex cannot receive a grant from FEMA for repairs to the building because it is treated as a business. However, the owner may be able to get a low-interest disaster loan from the Small Business Administration for repair costs, the resulting economic injury and loss of rents that were not covered by insurance.

Injuries

A woman was injured by the storms, although she received no damage to either her home or her business. If insurance does not cover all the cost of her treatment, she may be eligible for a FEMA grant for reimbursement of those expenses.

Mental health

A relative is showing signs of depression that could be related to stress from the traumatic experience of the hurricanes and the aftermath. Referral services and short-term counseling are available for mental health problems caused by the disaster. One can call two crisis counseling numbers: 1-800-273-8255, the Suicide Prevention Hotline, or 1-866-615-8700, the United Healthcare Hurricane Hotline.

Vehicles

A man's car was damaged by the flooding, and his insurance does not cover the loss. He may be eligible for a low-interest disaster loan from the SBA so he can repair or replace his car. If he does not qualify for a loan, he may be eligible for a FEMA grant. He will need to provide proof of ownership and insurance information on the damaged vehicle.

Hotel/motel living

A family home was damaged and the family is now living in a hotel. If they registered for assistance with FEMA, they may receive money from FEMA for housing assistance. Any benefits extended by the American Red Cross or any other agencies cannot be duplicated by FEMA.

Staying with family or friends

A man's home was damaged; he is staying with family or friends and received \$2,000 Expedited Assistance from FEMA. That money may be used for any emergency expenses he chooses to pay. For example, he could pay utilities at the home where he is staying. If he received the \$2,358 Transitional Housing Allowance, he is allowed to spend it only on rent. Receipts must be kept. He may pay family or friends only if they have a formal landlord/tenant relationship with rent being paid.

Filed an insurance claim, but still no response

A woman registered with FEMA for disaster assistance. She has insurance, but her insurance settlement has been delayed longer than 30 days from the time she filed the claim. She needs to write a letter to FEMA explaining the circumstances. She should include documentation from the insurance company proving that she has filed the claim. If the claim was filed over the telephone, she should include the claim number, date applied and the estimated time it will take to receive her settlement. Any award of assistance by FEMA at this time would be considered an advance and must be repaid to FEMA once an insurance settlement is received, if the assistance duplicates benefits eventually paid by insurance. She may be eligible for a low-interest disaster loan from the SBA to help repair and/or replace her home and contents. Insurance settlement received after the loan is made can be used to pay down the loan.

FEMA turned down my requests:

A man's application for FEMA assistance was rejected. He may appeal any decision. Before he appeals a decision, he should refer to the specific information at www.fema.gov about qualifying for help. The information he received from FEMA with the decision letter includes the address to which he must send a written appeal. Appealing a FEMA decision must be done within 60 days of the date of his decision letter from FEMA. ■

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For more information on Louisiana disaster recovery, visit www.fema.gov, www.ohsep.louisiana.gov, or www.house.gov/jefferson.



Congress Must Fund Levee Protection Projects

Recent news reports highlighting the Army Corps of Engineers' failure to design an adequate levee and floodwall protection system in New Orleans make certain that Congress must provide the money to rebuild and improve our levees. The evidence is mounting that the massive flooding of our area was a man-made disaster for which the federal government must take responsibility. Congress should act immediately to correct the Corps' mistakes.

The report released by the Team Louisiana engineering group included a number of disturbing findings: the corps underestimated weak soil layers 10 to 25 feet below the levee; the sheet pilings were only driven 10 feet below sea level, not the 17.5 feet that the corps claimed; and, these were basic design flaws approved by the corps.

This is simply unacceptable. The Corps should be held accountable for what is being called the "costliest civil engineering failure in history." Congress, in holding the Corps accountable, needs to immediately provide adequate funding to rebuild our levees to a true Category 3 level and solidly commit to a Category 5 hurricane system. Besides accepting responsibility for human error and disastrous failures, the government must do this to ensure the future safety of our citizens.

President Bush, with the urging of our Congressional delegation, has committed to \$3.1 billion in funding for levee protection in South Louisiana. That includes: \$1.6 billion to repair the breaches that occurred during Katrina, rebuild the levees to the authorized pre-Katrina level and correct recently discovered design flaws by June 1st, the start of the 2006 hurricane season; and, \$1.5 billion to armor the levees with concrete and steel, close three inland canals and construct new pumping systems. He also committed to a \$4.8 billion dollar plan to study hurricane protection and levee systems in Louisiana. With this start, our people can now come home and start to rebuild their homes, businesses and lives.

But, we also need commitments on coastal restoration to restore the wetlands and barrier islands that often buffer us from storms. And we need commitments for a steady funding stream to maintain and continue improving our hurricane protection and coastal restoration projects. The time for debate and discussion is over. Our region would not have seen the devastation we experienced had our levees not failed in such a massive, destructive way.

I am working to ensure that Congress act swiftly on this matter, for it is truly a matter of life or death. In this regard, we expect to pass the President's suggested \$3.1 billion in a supplemental appropriation bill that Congress will take up as part of a \$30 billion package before Christmas. As I continue to work in Congress and press my colleagues for funding, I ask that you write letters to, call or email our President, the Chairmen and Ranking Democrats of the Appropriations Committees in the House and the Senate and the Majority and Minority Leaders in both the Senate and the House. It will take your persistence as citizens and my persistence in Congress to let our leaders know that we will come back – but we need their continued help to make us safe. ■



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