

News from

Congressman Christopher Carney

Representing Northeast and Central Pennsylvania

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CARNEY STATEMENT FOR FEMA ACCOUNTABILITY

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Christopher P. Carney issued the following statement at the House Homeland Security Field Hearing on June 4, 2007:

“I'd like to first thank the city and the people for being so kind as to host us and our hearing today. I know you've been through a lot and I hope hosting this hearing hasn't been a burden.

“I'd also like to take a second and thank Mr. Taylor for joining us here today. Every time I see him in the halls of the Capitol or on the House floor, I'm reminded of the catastrophe you endured.

“Finally, I'd like to thank the Mayors who shepherded our visit this morning and shared their stories with us.

“This is my first trip down here since the storm and I'm looking forward to some candid conversations.

“We're here today to assess how FEMA has been working with local and state entities in the aftermath of disasters like Hurricane Katrina.

“I ran for Congress because I was frustrated with what I saw as a lack of good government. FEMA's poor responses to major disasters such as flooding in Northeast Pennsylvania or Hurricane Katrina are prime examples.

“I understand the severe, devastating impact a flood can have on a community. Pennsylvania has seen several "hundred year floods" in the last few years, which have destroyed lives, houses and towns. This was without the significant winds of a hurricane.

“Our flooding season in Pennsylvania is coming up. June is the traditional time it begins and we are still not reassured that FEMA will be able to respond. We need accountability from FEMA so that we can better prepare ourselves for the future.

“I think we're all interested in hearing how, if at all, cooperation between local and state entities has improved with FEMA since Congress enacted FEMA reform. So, please, speak freely; we're here to listen.

“Thank you and I look forward to your thoughts.”

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