

News Release

Roscoe Bartlett

Representing the 6th District of Maryland

Committees: Armed Services, Science, & Small Business



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Congressman Roscoe Bartlett and Colleagues Join Citizens Against Government Waste (CAGW) and Pledge Yes to Relief, No to Pork, and No to Fraud In Hurricane Katrina Assistance from Taxpayers

Washington, DC – Congressman Roscoe Bartlett joined other Senate and House colleagues and Tom Schatz, President of Citizens Against Government Waste (CAGW) at a news conference today in Washington, DC to pledge YES to relief, NO to pork, and NO to waste, fraud or abuse in assistance from taxpayers for Hurricane Katrina-disaster relief. Later, Congressman Bartlett voted for and the House approved H.R. 3673, a bill to provide an additional \$51.8 billion in funding.

“Nobody is happy with the response at any level of government to Hurricane Katrina, but this is not the time for a blame game,” said Congressman Bartlett. “What we have to now is save lives, recover the bodies of those who died, and house the survivors. We need to do that without pork barrel spending. If the estimate of \$200 billion in federal government taxpayer-paid disaster assistance were reached and was provided to two million people, that would be \$100,000 per person. Every dollar we spend will be a debt that we borrow and that our kids and grandkids will have to pay back. We need to make sure that what we spend is necessary and spend that amount responsibly to be sure it’s worth passing on that debt. That’s one reason why so many of us insisted on the \$15 million included in this bill to oversee FEMA assistance.”

The Administration has now sent two supplemental requests to Congress totaling \$62.3 billion in hurricane-related disaster relief. The President has already signed the first supplemental into law (P.L. 109-61) providing \$10.5 billion to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Department of Defense.

Details in H.R. 3673:

► \$50 billion “to enable FEMA to continue ongoing response and recovery efforts” (food, shelter, medical care) *including \$15 million for the Inspector General to FEMA to ensure accountability and prevent waste, fraud and abuse of taxpayer paid assistance.*

- ▶ \$400 million to the Army Corps of Engineers to dredge channels and repair pump stations and facilitate the draining of flooded areas, particularly in New Orleans.
- ▶ \$1.4 billion to the Department of Defense to deploy military personnel to assist with the relief effort and repair DOD property.

Additional Details about Accountability for Taxpayer Assistance:

For an additional amount for `Disaster Relief', \$50,000,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That up to \$100,000,000 may be transferred to and merged with `Emergency Preparedness and Response--Public Health Programs' for the National Disaster Medical System to support medical care as authorized by the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 300hh-11): *Provided further*, That \$15,000,000 shall be transferred to and merged with `Departmental Management and Operations--Office of Inspector General' for necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General for audits and investigations as authorized by law for Hurricane Katrina response and recovery activities: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide, at a minimum, a weekly report to the Committees on Appropriations detailing the allocation and obligation of these funds, beginning not later than September 15, 2005: *Provided further*, That the amounts provided herein are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress).

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