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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2404
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Congressman Tom Davis
Chairman
House Select Bipartisan Committee to Investigate the
Preparation for and response to Hurricane Katrina
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Davis:

I am respectfully requesting that the Katrina Select Committee hold a hearing on the unmet need for housing of displaced persons along the Gulf Coast.

It is inconceivable that two months after Hurricane Katrina a backlog of over 14,000 applications for temporary housing in Mississippi is still unmet. In the past seven days FEMA placed 1575 travel trailers. At this rate the agency will not be able to place everyone in need of temporary housing by the end of the year. Many of my constituents are still living in tents, and thousands of others are forced to live with family members or are being housed at government expense in hotels across the nation. It is my understanding that our neighbors in Louisiana are also experiencing similar difficulties with respect to housing for displaced persons. This is simply unacceptable.

Since the hurricane hit, 11,838 FEMA travel trailers have been set up for families in Mississippi. This represents less than half of the total need. It is clear that FEMA is failing to meet the most basic needs for many of the victims of Katrina. It is my hope that by bringing this situation to the attention of our colleagues that we can find a solution to this problem that will result in a significant increase in the number of families that are moved into a safe and dry environment. Hopefully we can prevent similar problems in the future.

Thank you for your leadership of the Katrina Select Committee, and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,



GENE TAYLOR
Member of Congress

GT:rj