



**One Hundred Tenth Congress**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Homeland Security**  
**Washington, DC 20515**  
July 18, 2008

The Honorable Michael Chertoff  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable R. David Paulison  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
500 C Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Secretary Chertoff and Administrator Paulison:

On behalf of the Committee on Homeland Security, I am writing to commend the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), specifically the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), for its performance during the most recent floods in the Midwest.

FEMA's disaster operation was impressive. Especially noteworthy was FEMA's coordination with the Army Corps of Engineers, which collaborated with the private sector to distribute nearly four million liters of water, deliver almost 200,000 ready-to-eat meals, set-up thirty mobile disaster recovery centers, and assist threatened communities with more than 12.8 million sandbags to hold back-buckling levees.

I was also pleased to learn that FEMA quickly established a Federal and State Housing Task Force and pre-staged generators and pumps in anticipation of downstream flooding. As soon as the water receded, FEMA stepped in to rapidly deploy its disaster staff to provide resources to individuals in need of assistance. FEMA's success demonstrates a continuing integration within DHS to implement the mandates of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-295). Simply put, this FEMA is better prepared, as a critical component of the Department of Homeland Security, to prepare for and respond to acts of terror, natural disasters, and other man-made emergencies.

I applaud each and every employee at the Department, and specifically those at FEMA, for their service in the flood-ravaged communities of the Midwest and along the Mississippi River. As these affected areas enter the recovery stage, I want to let you know that the Committee on Homeland Security is here to assist the Department with the legislative resources that it needs to continue this outstanding work. .

Again, I thank FEMA and the Department for its work and look forward to its continued overall progress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bennie G. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "B".

Bennie G. Thompson  
Chairman