



U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

PRESS RELEASE

September 8, 2005
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Press Contact: Jenny Manley
(202) 224-6404

Senate Approves Second Hurricane Supplemental Bill

Washington, D.C. – The full Senate gave unanimous approval tonight to a \$51.8 billion hurricane relief bill to supplement funding for federal agencies providing disaster assistance to the Gulf Coast states affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Appropriations Committee Chairman Thad Cochran (R-MS) said, “Hurricane Katrina was a destructive force of monumental proportions. It led to the most widespread destruction of the Gulf Coast states from any natural disaster in history, so the relief being provided now by federal government agencies is very meaningful and deeply appreciated.”

The Federal Emergency Management Agency will receive \$50 billion to continue ongoing response and recovery efforts, including over \$23 billion for assistance to individuals and \$7.6 billion for public assistance to state and local governments to rebuild non-federal public infrastructure. The Department of Defense will receive \$1.4 billion for costs associated with deployment of military personnel to assist the affected communities in rescue and relief efforts. The Corps of Engineers will also receive \$400 million for flood control and to continue repairs to pump stations and levees in the affected areas.

There are provisions in the bill requiring the Corps of Engineers and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to make weekly reports to Congress on the obligations of their funds. The Department of Defense is required to report to Congress within 5 days of any transfers of funds in the relief effort. Also included is \$15 million for the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security to conduct audits and investigations for Hurricane Katrina response and recovery activities to ensure that the funds are being disbursed as authorized by law.

“The Senate understands the needs of the people who are affected by this disaster. We are making sure that this funding gets to the people who need it,” said Cochran.

This bill is the second emergency spending measure to pass Congress in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

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