

By: Senator(s) Little,
Albritton, Brown, Browning,
Burton, Butler, Carmichael,
Chaney, Clarke, Davis,
Dawkins, Dearing, Flowers,
Frazier, Gollott, Harden,
Hewes, Hyde-Smith, Jackson
(15th), Jackson (11th),
Jordan, King, Kirby, Lee
(35th), Lee (47th),
Mettetal, Moffatt, Morgan,
Nunnelee, Pickering, Posey,
Robertson, Ross, Thames,
Thomas, Tollison, Walls,
White, Wilemon, Williamson

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 501

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXTENDING SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS TO THE
2 PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES AND COUNTIES RAVAGED BY THE HURRICANE
3 "KATRINA" DISASTER AND OFFERING ALL AID AT OUR DISPOSAL.

4 WHEREAS, on Monday, August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina, a
5 Category Four Hurricane, crashed with unrelenting and violent
6 force onto the entire Mississippi Gulf Coast, making landfall at
7 or around Waveland, Mississippi. In one day, the worst natural
8 disaster in our history struck us a grievous blow, leaving a
9 90-mile swath of destruction along the coast and causing severe
10 damage throughout central and north Mississippi; and

11 WHEREAS, from Waveland as far east as Pascagoula, virtually
12 all of the homes and property on the beach and inland for several
13 blocks were destroyed or severely damaged, wiped away into a sea
14 of debris, with cargo containers and casinos pushed across Highway
15 90; and

16 WHEREAS, this hurricane was far more than a calamity for the
17 coast. There is major damage throughout Pearl River, Jones,
18 Forrest, Lamar, Marion, Walthall, Pike, Jefferson Davis, Lawrence,
19 Stone and other south and central Mississippi counties as the
20 awesome strength of the hurricane came inland and destroyed
21 thousands of homes, churches, schools, public buildings, and
22 commercial and industrial facilities; and

23 WHEREAS, the initial response was to try to save lives on the
24 coast. The Mississippi National Guard, local law enforcement
25 authorities, Mississippi Department of Transportation repair

26 crews, and Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks
27 officers assisted to cut their way into the coast counties with
28 search and rescue and security. Since then, thousands of relief
29 workers from the Red Cross, FEMA, utility crews, the U.S. Coast
30 Guard and out-of-state National Guard troops have rushed to help;
31 and

32 WHEREAS, we quickly learned that the immense power and size
33 of the hurricane had overwhelmed the critical infrastructure of
34 the entire coast and south central Mississippi. The electric
35 power system had been crushed, the telecommunications system was
36 smashed, roads and streets were out of service, there was no
37 running water, and there was almost nonexistent communication.
38 With the serious immediate issues on the coast, there were many
39 counties north of the coast which needed similar support and
40 assistance. But these many brave volunteers stood fast at their
41 post of duty during the many hours of this rampaging holocaust, to
42 offer assistance to those in distress and for the protection of
43 property; and

44 WHEREAS, we are heartened to find that many survivors' first
45 concern was helping friends and neighbors. This attitude brings
46 pride to the Legislature; and

47 WHEREAS, we join with Governor Barbour in focusing attention
48 to the future. We are confident that in several months we will
49 see a great surge in the confidence of our residents and in the
50 economy of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and that this is an
51 opportunity for a "renaissance" with the assistance of business
52 leaders and developers to set a vision for the recovery of our
53 great state:

54 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
55 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
56 we do hereby extend our most heartfelt sympathy and sorrow to the
57 people and communities of Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Stone,
58 Lamar, Marion, Pearl River, Walthall, Forrest Counties and all of

59 the other counties in Mississippi aggrieved by the embrace of
60 Hurricane Katrina.

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Legislature of the State of
62 Mississippi and the citizens of this state wish those that were so
63 tragically affected to know that we do share their grief, anxiety
64 and anguish in their time of great sorrow and economic
65 devastation, and we do hereby pledge that we shall do all humanly
66 possible with all means at our disposal to ease their loss and
67 assist them to arise from the rubble and restore themselves and
68 their communities.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to
70 the Mayors and Boards of Supervisors of all communities and
71 counties in the Hurricane Katrina disaster area and be made
72 available to the Capitol Press Corps.