

By: Senator(s) Dawkins

To: Rules

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 539

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO AUTHORIZE THE  
2 FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) TO CONTINUE PROVIDING  
3 ASSISTANCE TO THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THE GULF COAST  
4 COUNTIES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI FOR HURRICANE KATRINA DEBRIS  
5 REMOVAL.

6 WHEREAS, on Monday, August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina, a  
7 Category 4 Hurricane, crashed with unrelenting and violent force  
8 onto the entire Mississippi Gulf Coast, making landfall at or  
9 around Waveland, Mississippi. In one day, the worst natural  
10 disaster in our history struck us a grievous blow, leaving a  
11 90-mile swath of destruction along the coast and causing severe  
12 damage throughout central and north Mississippi; and

13 WHEREAS, there is no state program for debris removal and any  
14 program at the state level would require general legislation to  
15 create it and an appropriation to fund the program; and

16 WHEREAS, there is a desperate need to allow financial  
17 assistance for the City of Gulfport and other areas of the  
18 Mississippi Gulf Coast to expand storm debris removal to  
19 residential and small business property owners in all  
20 neighborhoods of the city and areas affected by Hurricane Katrina  
21 without limits to inundation zones; and

22 WHEREAS, Mississippi's Fourth District U.S. Representative  
23 Gene Taylor has joined Governor Haley Barbour in seeking a  
24 one-year extension of the federal housing aid deadline so  
25 Mississippians can rebuild after Hurricane Katrina. The February  
26 28, 2007, deadline, or 18 months after the "unprecedented  
27 disaster" hit Mississippi and Louisiana, is inadequate for the

28 massive scale of rebuilding in the region and it is urgent to  
29 extend these hurricane assistance deadlines another year:

30         NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
31 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
32 we do hereby urge the Mississippi congressional delegation to  
33 authorize the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in  
34 conjunction with the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency  
35 (MEMA) to continue to provide assistance for at least 12  
36 additional months for Hurricane Katrina debris removal to  
37 political subdivisions in all areas of the Mississippi Gulf Coast  
38 counties without limits as to inundation zones. This request is  
39 made in conjunction with the request made by the Governor of the  
40 State of Mississippi and Mississippi Representative Gene Taylor  
41 for an extension of FEMA housing assistance.

42         BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to  
43 the Executive Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency,  
44 to the Governor of the State of Mississippi, to members of the  
45 Mississippi congressional delegation, and be made available to the  
46 Capitol Press Corps.