

By: The Entire Membership

To: Sel Cmte on Hurricane
Recovery

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO
2 PROVIDE THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE RELIEF AVAILABLE UNDER EXISTING
3 FEDERAL LAWS AND LAWS TO BE ENACTED BY CONGRESS, AS NECESSARY AND
4 PROPER TO ADDRESS THE DEVASTATION SUFFERED BY MISSISSIPPI FROM
5 HURRICANE KATRINA, ESPECIALLY IN THE AREAS OF AGRICULTURE,
6 MEDICAID, EDUCATION, TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING, INSURANCE,
7 UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS AND ANY OTHER RELIEF DEEMED APPROPRIATE TO
8 ASSIST IN THE RECOVERY AND REBUILDING OF THE STATE'S ECONOMY AND
9 RESOURCES.

10 WHEREAS, on August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina unleashed its
11 fury on the State of Mississippi, totally obliterating and
12 paralyzing numerous communities in the frenzy of its aftermath and
13 devastation; and

14 WHEREAS, openly declared to be the worst natural disaster in
15 the state and nation's history, Hurricane Katrina delivered a
16 severe blow to Mississippi's economy and resources, rendering
17 countless revenue generating industries completely inoperable,
18 families homeless and broken apart, citizens plagued by signs of
19 death and destruction, medical facilities knocked offline, natural
20 and manmade resources stripped, thoroughfares made impassable and
21 lives forever altered; and

22 WHEREAS, the economic hardships induced by Hurricane Katrina
23 profoundly impacted critical areas of Mississippi's economy and
24 the needs of its citizens, such as Medicaid and health care,
25 education, transportation, agriculture and forestry, housing,
26 insurance and unemployment; and

27 WHEREAS, countless thousands of Mississippians who own homes
28 and businesses that were directly affected by this natural
29 disaster remain subject to substantial indebtedness backed by
30 security instruments on real and personal property, and because of

31 inflation, property value appreciation and the replacement or
32 repair cost of that property will in most instances exceed the
33 original cost; and

34 WHEREAS, the vast majority of the victims of Hurricane
35 Katrina will be unable to fully recover from these devastating
36 losses and will face irreparable personal and financial misfortune
37 unless they receive much additional assistance; and

38 WHEREAS, the United States Congress has already responded by
39 authorizing the distribution of a total of 62.3 billion dollars
40 for relief and recovery from Hurricane Katrina, illustrating the
41 inherent and fundamental purpose of our federal government to
42 safeguard the public and promote the general welfare of the
43 people, but so much more is needed:

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
45 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
46 THEREIN, That we do hereby urge the United States Congress to
47 provide the maximum possible financial and other relief assistance
48 to the State of Mississippi to aid in its recovery from Hurricane
49 Katrina, especially in the following areas:

50 (a) Providing financial and other aid to the
51 agricultural producers and markets within the devastated areas for
52 losses and damages incurred by the state's forestry and timber
53 industries, to assist in timber seeding and replanting to prevent
54 further erosion and dilapidation of other natural resources, and
55 to assist the chicken and poultry farmers in the recoupment of
56 their losses;

57 (b) Providing requisite funding to the Division of
58 Medicaid to ensure that qualifying individuals are not denied the
59 necessary medical and pharmaceutical assistance required to
60 maintain their health care needs;

61 (c) Providing an exemption for compliance with the
62 federally mandated "No Child Left Behind" Act, *P.L. 107-110, 115*

63 *Stat. 1425, 20 USCS 6301*, due to the large student population
64 adversely affected by the disaster;

65 (d) Providing financial and other aid to the United
66 States Department of Transportation for the repair, renovation,
67 improvement or replacement, and the planning, design and
68 construction of damaged roadways, bridges, road signs and
69 structural support for state highways and other state and local
70 roads;

71 (e) Providing for housing assistance to individual
72 citizens through voucher-assistance programs, temporary housing or
73 any other feasible remedies for displaced and relocated families;

74 (f) Providing indemnification to homeowner's insurance
75 policy holders from losses suffered as a result of Hurricane
76 Katrina, whether those losses were caused by a water-driven or
77 wind-driven storm;

78 (g) Extending the period for which unemployment
79 benefits can be received from the current maximum of 26 weeks, and
80 granting any other waivers on the federal level that would be
81 beneficial to state citizens who have become unemployed as a
82 result of Hurricane Katrina.

83 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
84 transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the
85 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members
86 of the Mississippi Congressional Delegation, Governor Haley
87 Barbour and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.