

Louisiana's Recovery

Though Hurricanes Katrina and Rita primarily affected the southern part of Louisiana, the entire state felt the effects of the storms. Fully recovering from the storms is important for the long-term health of Louisiana. I think that the federal government must live up to its promise and help our citizens recover and our state prepare for future disasters.

I will be able to use his position on the Financial Services Committee to address several lingering problems caused by the storms: the rising cost of homeowners' insurance. The Financial Services committee also has jurisdiction over housing issues for Louisiana. My first bill, which passed in the House, sought to address a housing issue affecting storm-damaged areas.

I have supported the following legislation:

- Supported legislation in the emergency supplemental that authorizes \$5.8 billion for levees in South Louisiana to protect our badly damaged hurricane protection systems. The same legislation included \$73 million for housing vouchers in the New Orleans area.
- Sponsored and passed the Public Housing Disaster Relief Act of 2008, which allows FEMA to assist public housing authorities trying to rebuild damaged facilities in the aftermath of Katrina and Rita. Previously, government red tape prevented FEMA from assisting these agencies (H.R. 6276).
- Joined with Congressman Charlie Melancon (LA-03) in supporting the Energy and Tax Extenders Act of 2008, which prevents those affected by the hurricanes from getting taxed on their deducted losses. It also extends the amount of time to begin rebuilding using GO Zone tax breaks (H.R. 6049).