

## Congressman Cazayoux Passes Housing Bill

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Bill, which passed unanimously, will help Gulf Coast public housing authorities rebuild their facilities

WASHINGTON, DC- Congressman Don Cazayoux passed a bill today entitled the Public Housing Disaster Relief Act of 2008. H.R. 6276 will allow FEMA to directly assist public housing authorities by eliminating section 9(k) from the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act that pertains to the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Under suspension of the rules, the bill passed unanimously on the floor of the House of Representatives.

"As we have seen too often, the biggest obstacle that Gulf Coast residents face is not the will to rebuild; it is red tape from the federal government," Cazayoux said. "This bill provides a commonsense fix to HUD that improves FEMA's ability to directly assist public housing authorities trying to rebuild affordable and quality housing for those who need it. I thank my fellow members, and especially members of the Financial Services Committees and Homeland Security and Chairmen Frank and Thompson, for making this bill a priority and passing it quickly."

Section 9(k) was created to award capital funds to public housing authorities affected by natural disasters. In the last several years, Congress has not allocated funds for disaster relief under section 9(k). Unfortunately for Gulf Coast public housing authorities, congressional appropriations law prevents them from accessing FEMA grant money when there is a pre-existing account at HUD.

Congressman Cazayoux's bill eliminates section 9(k), freeing up money from section 406 of the Stafford Act administered by FEMA to assist Gulf Coast public housing authorities. The bill is the product of the findings at a joint hearing between the Financial Services Committee and the Homeland Security Committee and it has the support of the Administration.

"This bill is an important step in the long-term recovery of Louisiana and Mississippi," Cazayoux said. "By passing H.R. 6276, we are helping the people of the Gulf Coast and ensuring a quicker recovery for areas affected by future natural disasters."

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