

NATIONAL WATERWAYS ALLIANCE

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November 17, 2005

TO: The Leadership of the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives.

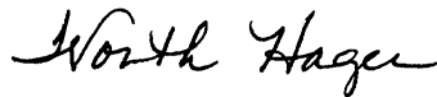
RE: Fulfilling the President's promise to rebuild the Gulf Coast and areas affected by the recent hurricanes.

The members of the National Waterways Alliance, representing interests concerned with all aspects of our nation's water infrastructure for transportation, flood control, hydropower, water supply, recreation and environmental restoration, respectfully urge you to schedule a vote immediately on the President's emergency funding proposal sent to Congress on October 28th.

Of particular importance in this bill are funds to rebuild critical infrastructure on the Gulf Coast, including the levees around New Orleans. Funding for these efforts was not contained in the just-passed Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill, as it was expected that the needs would be addressed in the supplemental. An earlier supplemental contained money to keep relief efforts by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers going for five weeks--money that was exhausted more than 4 weeks ago. The Corps has had to transfer around \$300 million slated to be used for other vital projects around the country. Under current Congressional directives, the Corps is required to have money in hand before they can go forward with contracts for rebuilding. **Therefore, without this supplemental, the goal of restoring protection for the citizens of New Orleans and surrounding areas before the next storm season could be compromised, and the ongoing program of the Corps may well be impacted.**

Thank you for your consideration of the seriousness of this situation. We hope it can be addressed swiftly.

Sincerely,



(Ms.) Worth Hager
Secretary to the National Waterways Alliance and
President, National Waterways Conference, Inc.