

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1897

To allow for expanded uses of funding allocated to Louisiana under the hazard mitigation program while preserving the goals of the program to reduce future damage from disasters through mitigation.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 30, 2007

Mr. VITTER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To allow for expanded uses of funding allocated to Louisiana under the hazard mitigation program while preserving the goals of the program to reduce future damage from disasters through mitigation.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. PROHIBITION OF RESTRICTION ON USE OF**
4 **AMOUNTS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (c), and not-
6 withstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator
7 of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall not
8 prohibit the use by the State of Louisiana under the Road

1 Home Program of that State of any amounts described
2 in subsection (e), based upon the existence or extent of
3 any requirement or condition under that program that—

4 (1) limits the amount made available to an eli-
5 gible homeowner who does not agree to remain an
6 owner and occupant of a home in Louisiana; or

7 (2) waives the applicability of any limitation de-
8 scribed in paragraph (1) for eligible homeowners
9 who are elderly or senior citizens.

10 (b) PROCEDURES.—The Administrator of the Fed-
11 eral Emergency Management Agency shall identify and
12 implement mechanisms to simplify the expedited distribu-
13 tion of amounts described in subsection (e), including—

14 (1) creating a programmatic cost-benefit anal-
15 ysis to provide a means of conducting cost-benefit
16 analysis by project type and geographic factors rath-
17 er than on a structure-by-structure basis; and

18 (2) developing a streamlined environmental re-
19 view process to significantly speed the approval of
20 project applications.

21 (c) WAIVER.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
23 graph (2), in using amounts described in subsection
24 (e), the President shall waive the requirements of
25 sections 206.434(c) and 206.438(d) of title 44, Code

1 of Federal Regulations (or any corresponding similar
2 regulation or ruling), or specify alternative require-
3 ments, upon a request by the State of Louisiana
4 that such waiver is required to facilitate the timely
5 use of funds or a guarantee provided under section
6 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
7 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c).

8 (2) EXCEPTION.—The President may not waive
9 any requirement relating to fair housing, non-
10 discrimination, labor standards, or, except as pro-
11 vided in subsection (b), the environment under para-
12 graph (1).

13 (d) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Except as provided in sub-
14 sections (a), (b), and (c), section 404 of the Robert T.
15 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
16 (42 U.S.C. 5170c) shall apply to amounts described in
17 subsection (e) that are used by the State of Louisiana
18 under the Road Home Program of that State.

19 (e) COVERED AMOUNTS.—The amounts described in
20 this subsection is \$1,170,000,000 provided to the State
21 of Louisiana because of Hurricane Katrina of 2005 or
22 Hurricane Rita of 2005 under the hazard mitigation grant
23 program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

- 1 under section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-
- 2 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c).

