



State Central Committee Meeting

June 7, 2008

Resolution 2008-E

Submitted by: David Gauthé

District 55B

National Bi-Partisan Platform on Gulf Coast Rebuilding:

WHEREAS, The 2005 Hurricanes and levee breaches killed over 2,000 people, destroyed an estimated 300,000 homes, displaced hundreds of thousands of residents, caused an estimated \$150 billion in capital damages to homes, businesses and public infrastructure and are predicted to result in \$200 billion in economic losses for the state of Louisiana alone; and

WHEREAS, Damaged schools, hospitals, public buildings, police stations, fire houses, and roads that have not been rebuilt have a negative impact on the economy and long-term well being of families, businesses, and communities in Louisiana and across the Gulf Coast; and

WHEREAS, The lack of affordable housing in the Gulf Coast remains a significant challenge for low and middle income families as well as business owners in vital industries across the region.

WHEREAS, Ten of thousands of Louisiana residents remain internally displaced across the country and many wish to return home with safety and dignity to rebuild and reunite with their families but remain concerned about moving the future of flood protection, education, affordable housing and the availability of economic opportunities to be able to support their families in their former communities; and

WHEREAS, The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act was not written to respond to the long-term needs and rights of communities, families and businesses that suffer from such catastrophic disasters and internal displacement as experienced during the 2005 hurricanes and levee breaches; and

WHEREAS, Residents of the Gulf Coast are thankful for the funds the region has received from the federal government but the funds a federal programs to rebuild public infrastructure, flood protection and affordable housing fall far short of funds needed to repair the damage caused and prevent future disasters on the scale of 2005 Hurricanes and levee breaches; and

WHEREAS, Significant portions of the federal funds appropriated to rebuild community infrastructure and affordable housing, including FEMA's Public Assistance program and Community Development Block Grant funding, have gone unspent and thousands of approved projects remain uncompleted as federal rebuilding programs remain unresponsive to the scale of devastation and pressing community needs; and

WHEREAS, The Gulf Coast currently lacks the trained workers with skills needed to rebuild, as Louisiana alone will require an additional 90,000 construction trades workers over the next 5 years; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's coastal communities remain vulnerable to future storms and lack the true 100-year flood protection the federal government is mandated to supply, much less the Category 5 storm protection residents deserve, while the current federal offer for the Army Corps of Engineers to complete 100 year flood protection and coastal restoration projects will require the State of Louisiana to raise exorbitant matching funds over the next year in order for the projects to be completed by 2011; and

WHEREAS, Fulfilling the federal government's promises for Gulf Coast recovery and empowering residents to realize their right to return and rebuild are moral obligations, and require the attention of every American, regardless of party affiliation or state of residence; and

WHEREAS, Many of the greatest rebuilding successes have been led by residents and furthermore that a coordinated local, state, and federal partnership empowering local families, businesses, and communities is required to respond to the need of Gulf Coast communities; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Louisiana Republican Party Central Committee that the Louisiana Republican Party supports the passage of policy based on the Gulf Coast Civic Works Act for a resident led partnership rebuilding public infrastructure for stronger, safer and more equitable communities, train a new generation of skilled trade workers, create job and training opportunities for returning and displaced workers and contracting opportunities for local businesses; and be it further

Resolved, The Louisiana Republican Party supports authorizing increased funding for federal-state-local partnerships to create access to and additional affordable housing and promote home-ownership for returning families, workers and families moving out of unsafe FEMA trailers; and be it further

Resolved, The Louisiana Republican Party supports the passage of legislation allowing the State of Louisiana to pay non-federal matching funds for vital coastal restoration and Army Corps of Engineers flood protection projects over time and for additional funding towards the swift completion of an equitable Category 5 flood protection plan through levee construction and coastal restoration projects for Gulf Coast communities, securing vital American environmental and economic interests along the Gulf Coast, making all communities safer and creating opportunities for local businesses and workers; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman transmit copies of this resolution to the Chairman of the Republican National Committee and its Platform Committee, Louisiana's members of the Republican National Committee, each Senator and Representative from Louisiana in the Congress of the United States and the President of the United States urging their support in passing such federal legislation.

1) We believe fulfilling the federal government's promises for Gulf Coast recovery and empowering residents to realize their right to return and rebuild are moral obligations, and require the attention of every American, regardless of party affiliation or state of residence.

2) We believe many of the greatest rebuilding successes have been led by residents and furthermore that a coordinated local, state, and federal partnership empowering local families, businesses, and communities is required to respond to the need of Gulf Coast communities.

3) We support the passage of policy based on the Gulf Coast Civic Works Act for a resident led partnership to rebuild public infrastructure for stronger, safer and more equitable communities, train a new generation of skilled trade workers, create job and training opportunities for returning and displaced workers, and develop contracting opportunities for local businesses; and be it further

4) We support authorizing increased funding for federal-state-local partnerships to create access to and additional affordable housing and promote home-ownership for and promote home-ownership for returning families, workers and families moving out of unsafe FEMA trailers

5) We support the passage of legislation allowing the State of Louisiana to pay non-federal matching funds for vital coastal restoration and Army Corps of Engineers flood protection projects over time and for additional federal funding towards the swift completion of an equitable Category 5 flood protection plan through levee construction and coastal restoration projects for Gulf Coast communities, securing vital American economic and environmental interests along the Gulf Coast, making all communities safer and creating opportunities for local businesses and workers.

6) We support the closure of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet.