

## Press Release

### **Statement of The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton from Today's Markup on H.R. 2775 to Authorize Funding for Emergency Management Performance Grants and Other Purposes**

*From today's full committee markup, regarding the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act*

June 28, 2007

*By Mary Kerr (202) 225-6260*

Mr. Chairman, I am proud to join you as the original co-sponsor for H.R. 2775, a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize funding for emergency management performance grants, and for other purposes.

This bill primarily codifies the Emergency Management Performance Grant Program (EMPG), in its historic and natural home, the Stafford Act. EMPG is a program that has worked and worked well since the 1950s. On April 26, the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management, which I chair, held a hearing on FEMA's Preparedness and Response to ALL Hazards, in which EMPG was widely discussed. Several witnesses, including, Mike Selves, the President of the International Association of Emergency Managers, Craig Fugate, State Emergency Management Director for the State of Florida and James Lee Witt the former Director of FEMA in the Clinton Administration all spoke about the importance of this program.

Mr. Chairman, in addition to myself, I know the Nation's emergency managers appreciate your recent efforts to support EMPG through your latest public statements and the introduction of this bill. I am particularly pleased to see the support that this bill, as well as your efforts, have received from state and local emergency management officials. EMPG is a program that works, works well and has worked for over half a century.

Speaking on behalf of emergency managers and myself, thank you again for your steadfast support not only for this program but also for your leadership in protecting the jurisdiction of the T&I committee over the Stafford Act.

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