

**Statement of the Honorable Sam Graves, Ranking Member  
Regarding H.R. 2775**

**Full Committee Markup  
June 28, 2007**

The Emergency Management Performance Grant program (EMPG) has been around for 50 years. EMPG is the only program dedicated to building state and local all hazard emergency management capability.

H.R. 2775 directs the Administrator of FEMA to continue implementing the EMPG program as authorized by the Stafford Act. The bill does not change EMPG's purpose or eligible uses.

The Democratic staff worked closely with the republican staff in drafting this bill. It is a bipartisan bill that is supported by State and local emergency managers.

I support H.R. 2775 and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Amendment

The Manager's amendment reflects recommendations from the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) and the national emergency management association (NEMA) after they had a chance to review the bill.

The Manager's amendment increases the authorization from \$400 million dollars to \$450 million dollars.

NEMA did a comprehensive survey of state emergency management programs, and this authorization level would be appropriate for meeting the program needs of this chronically under funded program.

I support the amendment and urge its adoption.