

New Katrina Legislation Introduced in Senate

Minority members of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee last week introduced their version of legislation aimed at coordinating federal efforts to rebuild the Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

The Gulf Coast Infrastructure Redevelopment and Recovery Act of 2005 (S. 1836) would establish a Federal Infrastructure Task Force to serve as the coordinating body to distribute and execute federal funding for redevelopment, and establish standards for investment.

The legislation would also establish grants and studies aimed at updating emergency response plans, resolving inadequacies and identifying infrastructure vulnerabilities.

In addition, it would establish a National Levee Safety Program that would be charged with inspecting all levees in the United States and recommending repair priorities to Congress. The levee program mirrors the National Dam Safety Program, which ASCE helped to enact.

For a copy of the legislation, visit <http://thomas.loc.gov> and search on S. 1836.