

“It is the responsibility of every Member of Congress to ensure that the federal government responds to the needs of all Americans. The Gulf Coast Civic Works Act ensures that real progress is made toward rebuilding and sustaining the Gulf Coast region.”

-LETTER FROM REPS. ZOE LOFGREN, CHARLIE MELANCON, JOSEPH CAO, GENE TAYLOR, AND RODNEY ALEXANDER TO CONGRESS ON BEGINNING OF HURRICANE SEASON (JUNE 1, 2009)

“There's a new idea coming for the Gulf Coast... [L]egislation that creates a Gulf Coast recovery and empowerment initiative. It will employ people who fled the region to rebuild the region: the houses, the businesses, roads and bridges. It will give people an incentive to move back home and put them back to work. That's the kind of leadership we need.”

- PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA, BATON ROUGE, LA (MAY 5, 2007)

Gulf Coast Civic Works Act (HR 2269):
“Green” Jobs to Rebuild America's Gulf Coast Communities

No region of the United States has a greater need for rebuilding its infrastructure, restoring its environment and providing opportunity to its residents than America's Gulf Coast. The Gulf Coast Civic Works Act—which is co-sponsored by a bipartisan group of 24 members of Congress and supported by more than 200 diverse regional and national community, faith, environmental and human rights organizations—funds "green" resident-led recovery projects, building on the success of community organizations in recovery, to help meet the overwhelming unmet needs of the individuals, families, and communities devastated by hurricanes Katrina, and Rita.

This pilot project would partner with communities in planning, overseeing and administering recovery projects to assist the survivors of these disasters, providing communities with tools to build resilience against the impact of future disasters and climate change and while revitalizing the region economically and socially. The bill would create a minimum of 100,000 prevailing wage jobs and training opportunities for local and displaced workers on projects reinvesting in infrastructure and restoring the coastal environment utilizing emerging green building techniques and technologies to address remaining recovery challenges, especially those still faced by residents with disabilities, women, internally displaced, minority and immigrant communities.

Rebuilds Vital Public Infrastructure and Restores the Environment

- Rebuilds and repairs vital infrastructure including schools, police and fire stations, hospitals, parks, roads, water and sewer systems, workforce housing, and cultural centers.
- Builds equitable flood protection and restores natural flood protection such as barrier island, marshes and wetlands that defend the livelihood of coastal families and billions of dollars of Gulf Coast commerce, including a majority of our nation's energy infrastructure.
- Enhances energy efficiency and conservation to save on energy costs and eliminate carbon emissions to better protect vulnerable populations from the effects of climate change.
- Serves as a national model for building on the strength of community action and engaging residents in disaster recovery and sustainable economic development.

Creates Good "Green" Jobs and Provides Job Training

- Creates 100,000 good wage jobs and training opportunities for Gulf Coast residents and encourages contractors to provide opportunities for apprenticeship and on-the-job training.
- Encourages cutting edge green building techniques and technologies to minimize carbon emissions and energy needs, preparing workers and businesses for this growing industry.
- Creates a Civic Conservation Corps for young workers to train a new generation to restore the coastline and provide much needed economic opportunities for area youth.

Spurs Equitable and Sustainable Community Development

- Engages community leaders and local officials to determine projects based on community needs.
- Focuses benefits locally through first source hiring provisions for locals and displaced.
- Engages community organizations in federal development and recovery projects.
- Strengthens workforce by providing jobs, much needed skills training and additional funding for community colleges and training facilities.
- Creates contracting opportunities for local businesses.

Requires Accountability and Community Oversight

- Works with the Office of Gulf Coast Recovery and Rebuilding to provide oversight and transparency, give logistical and administrative assistance, and allocate funding to the local communities through a resident-driven grant-making process.
- Involves communities in overseeing contractors to avoid waste and fraud.

H.R. 2269: The Gulf Coast Civic Works Act

Sponsor: Rep. Zoe Lofgren [CA-16]

Current Co-Sponsors in U.S. House of Representatives (24 total):

Rep Rodney Alexander [LA-5]	Rep Sheila Jackson-Lee [TX-18]
Rep Robert A. Brady [PA-1]	Rep Barbara Lee [CA-9]
Rep Corrine Brown [FL-3]	Rep John Lewis [GA-5]
Rep Anh "Joseph" Cao [LA-2]	Rep Betty McCollum, [MN-4]
Rep. Emmanuel Cleaver [MO-5]	Rep Charlie Melancon [LA-3]
Rep Steve Cohen [TN-9]	Rep Charles B. Rangel [NY-15]
Rep John Conyers, Jr. [MI-14]	Rep Ileana Ros-Lehtinen [FL-18]
Rep Bob Filner [CA-51]	Rep Bobby Rush [IL-1]
Rep Charles Gonzalez, [TX-20]	Rep Pete Stark [CA-13]
Rep Al Green [TX-9]	Rep Gene Taylor [MS-4]
Rep Alcee L. Hastings [FL-23]	Rep Robert C. "Bobby" Scott [VA-3]
Rep Michael Honda [CA-15]	Rep Bennie Thompson, G. [MS-2]

Current Committee/Subcommittee Referrals:

Activity:

House Education and Labor: Chair George Miller [CA-7]	Referral, In Committee
House Financial Services: Chair Barney Frank [MA-4]	Referral, In Committee
House Transportation and Infrastructure: Chair James Oberstar [MN-8]	Referral, In Committee
Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management: Chair Eleanor Holmes Norton [DC-at large]	Referral
House Natural Resources: Chair Nick Rahall III [WV-3]	Referral, In Committee
House Energy and Commerce: Chair Henry Waxman [CA-30]	Referral, In Committee

Endorsements:

- New Orleans City Council Resolution
- Terrebonne (LA) Parish Council Resolution
- Lafourche (LA) Parish Council Resolution
- Louisiana Republican Party
- 100+ Catholic, Evangelical, Mainline, Jewish, and Muslim national leaders in a statement urging next Administration to support human rights and hurricane recovery (10/08)
- 200+ Community, Environmental, Faith, and Human Rights Organizations (see attached)
- 12 Members of the 2008 Democratic National Committee National Platform Committee (including each from AL, LA and MS) resulting in the principles of the legislation being adopted into the 2008 DNC National Platform below:

“For many in America, Hurricane Katrina conjures up the memory of a time when America’s government failed its citizens. Our government’s response during Hurricane Katrina is a national shame—and yet three years later, the government has still failed to keep its promise to rebuild. The people of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast are heroes for returning and rebuilding, and they shouldn’t face these challenges alone. We will partner with the people of the Gulf Coast to assist the victims of Hurricane Katrina and restore the region economically. We will create jobs and training opportunities for returning and displaced workers as well as contracting opportunities for local businesses to help create stronger, safer, and more equitable communities. We will increase funding for affordable housing and home ownership opportunities for returning families, workers, and residents moving out of unsafe trailers. We will reinvest in infrastructure in New Orleans: we will construct levees that work, fight crime by rebuilding local police departments and courthouses, invest in hospitals, and rebuild the public school system.” – 2008 DNC PLATFORM

For More Info About the Gulf Coast Civic Works Act Contact:

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