

MATSUI URGES INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION OF HURRICANE KATRINA

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Washington, DC – Congresswoman Doris O. Matsui (CA-5) called for an independent investigation and evaluation of the federal government's response to Hurricane Katrina as an original cosponsor of legislation to create an independent commission similar to that which investigated September 11th.

“Politics and partisan bickering should not be allowed to impede our ability to comprehensively evaluate the federal government's response to Katrina and review our ability to respond to future disasters,” said Matsui. “My district of Sacramento lies in a floodplain and my constituents demand and deserve to know that should we need the federal government's assistance because of a flood that they will be there to respond quickly and efficiently.”

The Independent Katrina Commission bill would establish a 10 member commission to review and assess the federal government's ability to respond to large-scale natural disasters. Following the model of the 9-11 Commission, this bipartisan commission would be made up of highly-regarded, prominent individuals who would have the public's trust. The legislation introduced today by Congressman Alcee Hastings (FL-23) is the companion bill to S. 1622.

Concluded Matsui, “This isn't about blame. This is about finding real answers and solutions. This is about ensuring the federal government does its job of protecting the American people.”

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