

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3826

To provide for the establishment of a Katrina Assistance Program through the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 20, 2005

Mr. MELANCON (for himself and Mr. GORDON) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Science

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of a Katrina Assistance Program through the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds that—

5 (1) it is estimated that 2,500 small and me-
6 dium-sized manufacturers employing approximately
7 100,000 workers have been significantly impacted by
8 Hurricane Katrina in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mis-
9 sissippi;

1 (2) local Centers under the Manufacturing Ex-
2 tension Partnership program, with their small budg-
3 ets, are overwhelmed by the magnitude of the re-
4 building efforts required after Hurricane Katrina;
5 and

6 (3) rebuilding local manufacturing capabilities
7 will employ people and is essential to begin rebuild-
8 ing the economy of the areas affected by Hurricane
9 Katrina.

10 **SEC. 2. PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT.**

11 Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment
12 of this Act, the Director of the National Institute of
13 Standards and Technology shall establish within the Man-
14 ufacturing Extension Partnership program established
15 under sections 25 and 26 of the National Institute of
16 Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k and 278l)
17 a Katrina Assistance Program, to provide assistance to
18 impacted small and medium-sized manufacturers in the
19 areas affected by Hurricane Katrina.

20 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

21 The Katrina Assistance Program shall—

22 (1) establish triage teams, consisting of per-
23 sonnel from within the national network of Manufac-
24 turing Extension Partnership Centers established
25 under section 25 of the National Institute of Stand-

ards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k) and local experts, the purpose of which shall be to assess the needs of impacted manufacturers;

(2) develop virtual assistance centers, consisting of databases incorporating the results and recommendations of the triage team assessments;

(3) assess the potential disruption on national manufacturing supply chains as a result of Hurricane Katrina, and develop recommendations of how to minimize such disruption; and

(4) assist small and medium-sized manufacturers in the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina with—

(A) finding alternative sources for raw materials or supplies;

(B) finding alternate locations to resume operations;

(C) designing facilities and selecting equipment;

(D) making financial decisions with respect to capital investments and rate of return calculations;

(E) conducting rebuilding studies; and

(F) any other needs of the impacted small and medium-sized manufacturing community.

1 **SEC. 4. NO MATCHING FUND REQUIREMENT.**

2 Assistance under the Program established under this
3 Act shall be exempt from matching requirements for the
4 Manufacturing Extension Partnership program under the
5 National Institute of Standards and Technology Act.

6 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

7 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
8 retary of Commerce \$60,000,000 for the Katrina Assist-
9 ance Program established under this Act.

10 **SEC. 6. BUILT ENVIRONMENT INVESTIGATION FOR HURRI-**
11 **CANE KATRINA.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Under the authority provided by
13 the National Construction Safety Team Act, the Director
14 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology
15 shall carry out an engineering performance study of the
16 effects of Hurricane Katrina in the areas of Louisiana,
17 Alabama, and Mississippi covered by the President’s major
18 disaster declarations of August 29, 2005. The study shall
19 be based on an examination of physical structures dam-
20 aged due to excessive wind, storm surge, and flooding, in-
21 cluding—

22 (1) key physical infrastructures such as ports,
23 utilities, lifelines associated with infrastructure fa-
24 cilities, and transportation systems; and

25 (2) engineered and nonengineered buildings.

1 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the study shall be
2 to—

3 (1) develop new knowledge concerning practices
4 related to building standards and codes; and

5 (2) review the adequacy of current building
6 codes and standards for excessive wind, storm surge,
7 and flooding.

8 (c) MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES.—Consistent with
9 the authority provided by the National Construction Safe-
10 ty Team Act, the Director of the National Institute of
11 Standards and Technology shall convene public meetings
12 and conferences to inform the public, government authori-
13 ties, and relevant professional associations regarding find-
14 ings and recommendations of the study.

15 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
16 are authorized to be appropriated to the Director of the
17 National Institute of Standards and Technology
18 \$3,000,000 for carrying out this section.

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