A Statement of Principles for the
Congressional Response to the Catastrophic Events of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

We the undersigned Congressional Representatives and Senators of the United States of America,

In order to prevent the disaster that devastated the Gulf Coast region and flooded the City of New Orleans from ever happening again,

Hereby commit within the 110th Congress to provide a coordinated plan for:

- Restoration of the wetlands along the Gulf Coast;
- A system of flood prevention and control that provides protection for storms up to Category 5 as classified by the Safir-Simpson scale for Metropolitan New Orleans and the Gulf Coast region;
- A system of administration of the Mississippi River that facilitates the natural replenishment and coastal restoration of the land, ensures the long-term ecological and economic security of the river, and maximizes the benefits of the river for the people of the nation;
- The full recovery and restoration of the City of New Orleans and the Gulf Region; and
- Addressing the issues of poverty and race, both urban and rural, as exposed in the flooded areas, for example fostering economic environments that support small businesses and entrepreneurship as a catalyst in helping the most affected in the most affected regions.

In order to prevent and mitigate future flooding tragedies throughout the nation,

Hereby commit within the 110th Congress to provide a comprehensive federal catastrophe prevention and response plan for all regions of the United States that ensures the preparedness of national government for any and all future flooding tragedies.