



**Petition calling for a 9/11 Style Levee Commission to investigate the Flood protection Failures in metro New Orleans.**

I support calling for an independent bipartisan investigation into the failure of the Levees on August 29, 2005 that resulted in the deaths of over 1,300 people in New Orleans and the surrounding region which includes St. Bernard, Jefferson, Orleans and St. Charles Parishes.

**The federally led investigation established in late 2005 was inadequate.** That investigation, conducted by the Interagency Performance Evaluation Task Force (IPET) was established by Lt Gen Carl Strock, chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Since the USACE is the sole agency responsible for the design and construction of Greater New Orleans' levee system, such an investigation presents a serious conflict of interest, as the USACE was essentially in charge of investigating itself.

Additionally, since this investigation's findings were released on June 1, 2006, three independent levee investigation teams (the National Science Foundation/U.C. Berkeley, the National Academy of Engineering and Team Louisiana) have criticized the USACE's report as incomplete and technically inaccurate.

Despite this unanimous criticism, the USACE's potentially flawed findings are being used to repair and fortify the south Louisiana flood protection system which protects the lives and property of 1.5 million people.

Clearly, an objective analysis is needed to assure that critical vulnerabilities in the levee system are addressed and all possible opportunities for improvement are considered. Taxpayers need a full return on the investment dollars that Congress authorizes and the citizens of south Louisiana need the best protection possible.

Sincerely,

<i>Name (please print)</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Zip</i>	<i>Email</i>