

JURISDICTION AND ACTIVITIES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
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I. INTRODUCTION

The Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management is responsible for the authorization and oversight of Federal real estate programs, including, construction, repair and alterations, maintenance and enhancement of such real property; the authorization and oversight of programs promoting economic development in communities suffering economic distress; the authorization and oversight of programs addressing the Federal management of emergencies and disasters; and a variety of measures affecting homeland security, including the all-hazards nature of the federal response to disasters, and Federal Protective Service. The asset management activities of the Subcommittee jurisdiction includes: measures relating to the Public Buildings Service (PBS) of the General Services Administration (GSA) -- which is the civilian landlord of the Federal Government -- including the planning, site and design, construction, acquisition and renovation of public buildings, courthouses, and border facilities, and the leasing of space for Federal employees; the physical plant and infrastructure of the Capitol Complex and use of the Capitol Grounds; the facilities of the White House complex; the facilities of the Smithsonian Institution, including all new and proposed facilities; facilities of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; Union Station Redevelopment; Judiciary Centers; measures relating to the location, use, accessibility, energy conservation, security, health and safety, transfer or exchange of Federal buildings; and the naming of Federal buildings and courthouses. The economic development activities of the Subcommittee includes jurisdiction over the Economic Development Administration (EDA) of the Department of Commerce, the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), the Denali Commission, the Delta Regional Authority (DRA), the Northern Great Plains Regional Authority, the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission, the Southwest Border Regional Commission, and the Northern Border Regional Commission. The Subcommittee's jurisdiction of Federal management of emergencies and natural disasters includes FEMA oversight and activities relating to disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, as well as programs relating to first responders.

II. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

The General Services Administration (GSA) is the central management agency of the Federal Government. GSA was created in 1949, after the Hoover Commission recommended a central management entity for Federal personal and real property activities, and telecommunications and automatic data processing equipment. GSA owns or leases 9,600 assets, maintains an inventory of more than 362 million square feet of workspace for 1.1 million federal employees, and preserves more than 480 historic properties. GSA owns 1,517 Federal buildings with a total of 184 million square feet of space and leases 177 million square feet of space in 8,107 leased properties. It also provides Federal space for child-care and telecommuting. There are three Services within GSA: the Federal Supply Service (FSS), which buys personal property and computers for the government; Federal Technology Service (FTS), which procures telecommunication services for the government; and the Public Buildings Service (PBS),

which owns, operates and develops Federal buildings. The Subcommittee has jurisdiction over all of GSA's real property activity through the Property Act of 1949, the Public Buildings Act of 1959, and the Cooperative Use Act of 1976. These three Acts were recodified as Title 40 United States Code, with these popular names no longer used in legislation.

A. Public Buildings Service

The Public Buildings Service (PBS) of GSA is responsible for the construction, repair, maintenance, alteration, and operation of United States courthouses and public buildings of the Federal Government. Additionally, PBS leases privately owned space for Federal use. The current inventory of federally-owned space consists of 184 million square feet of office, storage, and special use space in 1,517 federally-owned buildings, and 177 million square feet of space in 8,107 leased locations. The total owned and leased inventory houses approximately 1.1 million Federal workers nationwide. The inventory ranges from 2,500 square foot border crossing stations along the northern border, to million square foot courthouses located in major metropolitan areas. PBS, with a work force of approximately 6,500 employees, owns, operates, maintains, and repairs existing Federal buildings, and plans for the construction of new Federal buildings, including courthouses. The annual budget for PBS is approximately \$9 billion, mostly derived from the Federal Buildings Fund, an intra-governmental fund which agencies pay into through rent paid to GSA for the space they occupy. Any excess funds generated by the rental system are used for building repairs and new construction.

Title 40 U.S.C. §3307 states that no appropriation shall be made for the construction, repair, alteration, or leasing of space unless the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House and the Committee on the Environment and Public Works of the Senate pass resolutions authorizing such appropriation. Title 40 also requires the Administrator of GSA to submit to the Committees a prospectus requesting authority for any project in excess of \$2.79 million (an amount that is adjusted annually for inflation).

The basis for Committee action is a prospectus, which is a document submitted by GSA, with the approval of the Office of Management and Budget, to the Committee, detailing the particular project, its cost, benefits, housing plan for Federal occupancy, and other pertinent information. Resolutions generated by the Subcommittee authorizing new construction or repair and alteration projects are usually approved prior to the Appropriations Committee action on the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill, and are transmitted to the Appropriations Committee, as a method of notifying the appropriators of the Committee's action. Lease resolutions need not be approved prior to the commencement of Appropriations action, since appropriations for leasing are in a lump sum.

Additionally, the Committee may initiate building projects by passing a resolution in accordance with Title 40 U.S.C. §3314(b), which allows Congress to direct the Administrator of GSA, through a resolution passed by the Full Committee, to conduct a

study of Federal space needs in a community and report back to the Committee in a timely manner. These reports can also be the basis of passage of resolutions authorizing the appropriation of funds for the construction, acquisition, renovation, alteration, or leasing of space for Federal use.

B. Actions in the 111th Congress

1. Federal Courthouse Program

The Subcommittee continued its ongoing investigation and oversight of the federal courthouse program, building upon work conducted by the Subcommittee in prior congresses. In 2010, at the request of the Subcommittee, the General Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report detailing its review of the 33 courthouses built since 2000 (*See Federal Courthouse Construction: Better Planning, Oversight, and Courtroom Sharing Needed to Address Future Costs*, GAO-10-417, June 21, 2010). The GAO found that there was 3.56 million square feet of extra space built in the 33 courthouses, costing the taxpayer \$835 million plus \$51 million annually in administrative and maintenance costs. The Subcommittee held a hearing highlighting the findings of the GAO study and received testimony from GSA and the U.S. courts on May 25, 2010. Based on the Subcommittee's findings, the Subcommittee sent a letter to the Administration on August 2, 2010 requesting a moratorium on new courthouses. The Subcommittee also began more closely scrutinizing proposed courthouses, including determining if they are being designed in such a way as to incorporate new courtroom sharing policies and backfilling extra space with other federal agencies.

2. Real Property Management

The Subcommittee held eight hearings specifically related to GSA and the management of its programs in the 111th Congress and engaged in various oversight activities to identify issues affecting the efficient management of federal assets and the costs associated with inefficiency. The management of Federal Real Property has been on the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) *High Risk* list since 2003 due to issues such as the overreliance on costly leasing to meet long-term space needs and underused or vacant space. In addition, with nearly half of GSA's assets over 50 years old, GSA has failed to maintain a balanced inventory, draining federal resources and costing more to maintain old buildings that are inefficient. At the same time, GSA continues to over-rely on expensive new commercial leases that very often result in the taxpayer paying for a building several times over without any ownership interest. These issues were highlighted at a number of the Subcommittee hearings, including the hearing on "The Serious Commercial Real Estate Credit Crunch and GSA: Leasing and Building During an Economic Crisis" held March 20, 2009.

3. American Reinvestment and Recovery Act

GSA received \$5.5 billion in additional funds for the Federal Buildings Fund in the Recovery Act, of which the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act designated

\$300 million for GSA border stations and \$4.5 billion for “measures necessary to convert GSA facilities to High-Performance Green Buildings, as defined in section 401 of Public Law 110–140.” In addition, GSA has been tasked to assist other agencies in their building projects funded through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, including the new Social Security Administration’s (SSA) Data Center (\$500 million) and Customs and Border Protection’s border stations and ports of entry (\$420 million). The full Committee and Subcommittee held oversight hearings on the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funds. In addition, the Subcommittee held a joint hearing with the Ways and Means Committee on December 15, 2009 on the location and construction of SSA’s Data Center. Moreover, on May 26, 2010, the full Committee held a hearing on the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act that included testimony related to funding for border stations and land ports of entry. In particular, the hearing brought to light considerable concerns about a plan to upgrade a land port of entry in Vermont. Following the hearing, the chairman and ranking member of the full committee sent a letter to the secretary of homeland security expressing these concerns and recommending the project be withdrawn. The Department of Homeland Security subsequently withdrew the project.

III. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Subcommittee has jurisdiction over the Economic Development Administration (EDA), the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), the Denali Commission, the Delta Regional Authority (DRA), the Northern Great Plains Regional Authority, Southeast Crescent Regional Commission, Southwest Border Regional Commission, and Northern Border Regional Commission. These entities provide Federal assistance to economically distressed areas for the creation of long-term employment opportunities and economic growth.

A. Economic Development Administration

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) was created by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 and is administered through the Department of Commerce. EDA’s authorization expired fiscal year 2008 and needs to be reauthorized. The last reauthorization was enacted in the 108th Congress through Public Law 108-373, the Economic Development Administration Reauthorization Act of 2004.

Historically, EDA’s primary operation was a public works grant program designed to aid economically distressed communities by developing infrastructure with the intent of attracting new industry and thus creating long-term, private sector jobs. The types of projects funded through the program include the construction of water and sewer facilities, access roads, port improvements, and business incubator buildings to attract private investment and jobs to distressed areas. Generally, the grants are subject to a 50 percent cost-sharing requirement so that funds are leveraged with state, local, or private sources. Over the years, EDA’s programs have resulted in generating jobs with minimal federal investment. For example, studies of EDA’s programs have revealed that its

programs, on average, create jobs at a cost of \$4,000 per job. In addition, studies have also shown that \$1 invested by EDA attracts \$11 in private or other public funding.

Additionally, over the past several years EDA has received, and is authorized to continue to receive, increased levels of resources to aid communities adjusting to economic dislocations, including defense cutbacks and base closures. EDA is the primary Federal program addressing this hardship. EDA also provides grants for planning and administrative expenses for projects, as well as grants for training, research, and technical assistance. Given the flexibility of EDA's authority, other agencies may partner with or enter into agreements with the EDA to reduce regulatory funding limitations and ensure other federal resources are appropriately targeted to projects that will realize the greatest job creation.

Projects and initiatives for EDA funding are chosen through an application process. Each state has a designated Federal "Economic Development Representative" who works with local economic development districts (EDDs) to identify eligible projects. The applications are then forwarded to one of six EDA regional offices for review. The application must receive approval by both the regional office and EDA headquarters in Washington, D.C. The EDA recently began implementing a new application process in which, rather than applications being approved on a rolling basis, they are approved quarterly. EDA also has now placed strict deadlines on itself in providing feedback, technical assistance and approvals of applications to ensure applicants receive reliable and timely responses.

In the 111th Congress, the Subcommittee held a number of hearings related to the EDA, including a hearing on EDA Reauthorization held on March 10, 2009 and oversight hearings on EDA's funding (\$150 million) under the Recovery Act.

B. Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)

The Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 created ARC. The primary function of ARC was to provide economic development assistance to a 13-state region. The region includes all of West Virginia and parts of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Virginia. The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century shifted the ARC highway program's funding from the general fund to the Highway Trust Fund and significantly increased funding for the Appalachian Development Highway System.

ARC is a Federal-State Governmental agency consisting of the governors of the 13 Appalachian States and a Federal co-chairman. Project proposals must originate in, and be approved by a state. The Commission allocates the level of funding to each state.

ARC is viewed as a model program for Federal-state partnerships. The Commission structure provides that both the Federal co-chairman and the state co-chairman must agree on policy and funding issues. This 50-50 power sharing arrangement forces the Federal Government and the states to come to agreement on

issues. Additionally, the regional nature of the program motivates states to plan and adopt regional economic solutions to common problems.

C. Denali Commission

The Denali Commission Act of 1998 (P.L. 105-277) created the Denali Commission. The Denali Commission provides critical utilities, infrastructure, and economic support throughout Alaska. It is charged with lowering the cost of and raising the standard of living in Alaska by delivering Federal resources in the most cost-effective manner possible.

The Commission is co-chaired by a Federal and a state member (the Governor of Alaska) and includes a panel of five commissioners. In making funding decisions, commissioners must determine that funding would be consistent with the Commission's annual work plan, which includes funding criteria developed with public participation. The Commission also considers other factors in making funding determinations including a review of community based comprehensive plans. Projects that are comprehensive, community based, regionally supported, and sustainable are given priority. The Commission is also tasked with providing assistance on water and sewer wastewater programs, and, in consultation with the Coast Guard, developing a plan to repair or replace bulk fuel storage tanks. The Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-7) reauthorized the Denali Commission through FY 2008.

D. Delta Regional Authority (DRA)

Created by the Delta Regional Authority Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-554), the primary function of DRA is to provide economic development assistance to an eight-state region of the Mississippi River region. This region includes counties in Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee. The Authority was last reauthorized in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-171) for five years.

Similar to the ARC, DRA is a Federal-State Governmental agency consisting of the governor (or his designee) of each region state and a Federal co-chairman. The Authority was created to improve the economic growth and prosperity of the Mississippi River region. DRA's mission is to help create jobs, attract industrial development, and grow local economies by improving infrastructure, training the workforce, and building local leadership. These goals will be accomplished through the improvement of transportation and basic infrastructure in the region, establishing a framework for crafting regional strategies for economic development, and improving job training and education. Funding for all proposed development plans and projects is subject to certification by the state member and subsequent Authority approval.

During the 111th Congress, the Subcommittee received testimony from the DRA on mechanisms it has put into place to ensure job creation goals of its programs are achieved. During a hearing held on April 29, 2010, the DRA noted its use of agreements

with its grant recipients that detail the expected job creation goals. It was noted at that hearing that if those goals were not achieved the DRA seeks reimbursement of a pro rata portion of the funding.

E. Northern Great Plains Regional Authority

Created in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, this regional economic development authority is modeled closely on the management and operational structure of the Appalachian Regional Commission. The Authority is governed by a commission consisting of one member appointed by the President, the Governors of the states comprising the Authority, and a representative of an Indian tribe in the region appointed by the President. The Authority is designed to be a Federal grant program that would provide assistance in acquiring or developing land, constructing public infrastructure, carrying out economic development activities, and conducting research related to those activities previously mentioned.

F. Other Regional Commissions

The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 created three new regional commissions: Southeast Crescent Regional Commission, Southwest Border Regional Commission, and Northern Border Regional Commission which were established with similar governance structures as the other regional authorities.

G. Actions in the 111th Congress

During the 111th Congress, the Subcommittee held one hearing in conjunction with the reauthorization of the Economic Development Administration, one hearing related to EDA's fiscal year 2011 budget and one hearing related to EDA's Recovery Act funding. The Subcommittee also held a hearing on the fiscal year 2011 budgets of the Delta Regional Authority, the Appalachian Regional Commission, and the Denali Commission.

IV. FEMA: FEDERAL MANAGEMENT OF EMERGENCIES AND NATURAL DISASTERS

The Federal management of emergencies and natural disasters including disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery, as well as the general preparedness of first responders, are within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee. This jurisdiction includes, but is not limited to, the implementation of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act ("Stafford Act") and the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 ("PKEMRA"). The Stafford Act provides authority for Federal disaster relief and emergency assistance programs. These two programs are described in greater detail below. PKEMRA was enacted post-Katrina to address issues related to the response in that disaster. All authorities of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), including those not contained within the Stafford Act,

were transferred to Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in the Homeland Security Act of 2002. After its inclusion in DHS, FEMA's functions were dispersed within the Department, but generally fell under the Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate (EP&R). However, after the poor response following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita the Committee investigated the federal response. In addition, other investigations also occurred, including those conducted by the Select Bipartisan Committee to Investigate the Preparation for and Response to Hurricane Katrina which issued a report entitled, "Final Report of the Select Bipartisan Committee to Investigate the Preparation for and Response to Hurricane Katrina," in February of 2006. As a result of those investigations and efforts by the Committee, Congress enacted PKEMRA, which among other things put FEMA back together as a distinct entity within DHS, provided specific authorization for FEMA, and made the FEMA Administrator the principal advisor to the President on emergency management. The Subcommittee continues to pursue aggressive oversight of FEMA to ensure that FEMA effectiveness and authority is not diminished within DHS.

A. Disaster Relief Program

The Disaster Relief Program of the Federal Government is within the jurisdiction of the Committee. It is administered by FEMA, which also administers several other programs (such as flood insurance) which are not within our primary jurisdiction. The current Disaster Relief Program was established by the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, amended in 1988 by the Stafford Act (P.L. 100-707), and further amended by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-390).

The Disaster Relief Program is activated by a request of the Governor to the President. The request is based upon a finding of the Governor that the disaster is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and affected local governments and that Federal assistance is necessary. The Governor must take appropriate response actions under state law, and certify that state and local government obligations and expenditures will comply with all applicable cost-sharing requirements. The President may then declare a major disaster, name a Federal coordinating officer, and specify the type of assistance that will be available. Federal disaster assistance is designed to supplement disaster assistance available through state and local governments; it is not intended to supplant it.

Basic disaster assistance falls into two categories: public and individual assistance. The programs for public and individual assistance are largely state administered programs where FEMA provides not less than 75 percent of the cost of these programs.

1. Individual Assistance

In October 2002, FEMA implemented changes to the individual assistance available under the Stafford Act passed as a part of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The program is referred to as the Individual and Households Program. The new program merged elements of both the Disaster Housing Program and the Individual and Family

Grant Program. These changes did not affect Disaster Unemployment Assistance Program, Crisis Counseling Program, or the Disaster Legal Services Program.

Under the program, the maximum amount of assistance is limited to \$30,200 per household (adjusted annually by the Consumer Price Index), available for a period not to exceed 18 months after the declaration. This amount includes assistance provided for both Housing Assistance and Other Needs Assistance. To be eligible for this assistance, the request must be for a necessary expense and be a serious need; the individual must be uninsured or underinsured, and the expense must be disaster related.

a. Housing Assistance

There are four types of housing assistance available. These include temporary housing assistance (for use while repairs are made to a primary home made uninhabitable by a disaster), repair assistance, replacement assistance, and permanent housing construction (limited to remote areas and insular territories).

b. Other Needs Assistance

There are six types of assistance available under this program, medical, dental, funeral expenses, personal property, transportation, and other expenses (including moving and storage and group flood insurance).

Once an individual has reached the statutory cap on any type of assistance, or the \$30,200 cap on total assistance, they may seek additional assistance from sources run or coordinated by FEMA. These include:

- i. Small Business Administration loans to repair or replace homes, personal property or businesses not covered by insurance;
- ii. Emergency loans from the Farm Service Agency of USDA;
- iii. Crisis counseling; and
- iv. Disaster unemployment assistance for up to 26 weeks.

2. Public Assistance

Assistance is available to state and local governments and certain private non-profit organizations, which provide essential services of a governmental nature to the general public on a cost-share basis (typically, though not exclusively on a 75/25 percent cost sharing ratio):

- a. Utilizing, lending, or donating Federal resources (75 percent Federal);

- b. Funding and technical assistance for repair or replacement of public properties damaged or destroyed (75 percent Federal);
- c. Emergency or protective measures to save lives or protect property (75 percent Federal);
- d. Debris removal and clearance of roads (75 percent Federal);
- e. Emergency communications;
- f. Repair, reconstruction, or replacement of non-Federal-aid for streets, roads or highways; airports; and transit facilities (75 percent Federal); and
- g. Emergency public transportation such as alternate access routes, temporary bridges, and emergency mass transit.

Other programs include a Department of Education program to provide grants to restore public schools; a Department of Transportation program to provide financial and technical assistance for repair or reconstruction of highways on the Federal-aid system; and, community disaster loans to communities that may suffer a substantial loss of tax and other revenues and can demonstrate a need for financial assistance in order to perform their governmental functions.

3. Hazard Mitigation

Section 404 of the Stafford Act authorizes grants (75 percent Federal; 25 percent non-Federal) for governments and qualifying nonprofit organizations for use in disaster mitigation. In the past, a state that was victim to a disaster and had received a Presidential Disaster Declaration was entitled to a percentage of the total amount spent in disaster relief for Hazard Mitigation, administered under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Included in the passage of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 was a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program. This program allows the Administration to provide disaster mitigation grants in the absence of any disaster.

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program, as mentioned, provides for grants absent a disaster declaration. The rationale for this is that mitigation has been proven to save money and lives. Studies have shown that for every \$1 invested in mitigation efforts, \$3 are saved in post-disaster costs. The PDM program was most recently reauthorized in the 111th Congress by the Predisaster Hazard Mitigation Act of 2010 which reauthorized the program through fiscal year 2013.

B. Emergency Assistance Program

The Emergency Assistance Program provides for emergency assistance which is available in instances where a major disaster declaration is not necessary.

Emergency assistance is available in any occasion or instance for which the President determines Federal assistance is necessary to supplement state and local efforts and capabilities, to save lives, and to protect property and public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in any part of the United States. Emergency assistance is provided at not less than a 75 percent Federal share. Such assistance is not limited to traditional natural "disaster" situations; the authority, however, is limited to expenditure of \$5 million for a single emergency. This limit can be exceeded by the President if the immediate situation requires it, but the President must report to Congress on having done so.

Generally, the Governor of the affected state must request a declaration by the President that an emergency exists. The Governor must find that the situation is of such severity and magnitude that an effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and affected local governments and that Federal assistance is necessary. A Governor must take appropriate action and direct execution of the state's emergency plan.

The types of assistance available include: utilizing, lending or donating Federal resources; coordinating all assistance; providing technical and advisory assistance; debris removal; temporary housing up to 18 months; assisting in distributing medicine, food, and other consumables; and whenever this assistance is inadequate, providing assistance with respect to efforts to save lives, protect property and public health and safety, and lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe.

C. Homeland Security

FEMA's role in the area of homeland security stems from its role as the lead Federal entity for response and recovery in the wake of natural and man-made disasters. In addition to being the lead agency, responsible for coordinating the response of 27 Federal agencies and departments, in addition to the American Red Cross, FEMA has historically been responsible for general preparedness for disasters. This includes the preparedness of first responders, particularly firefighters through its management of the United States Fire Administration (jurisdiction over which the Committee shares with the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology) and the National Urban Search and Rescue Program.

D. Actions in the 111th Congress

The Subcommittee was actively involved in Emergency Management issues, including legislation and the holding of hearings on issues within the Committee's jurisdiction.

1. Legislation

As mentioned previously, the Predisaster Hazard Mitigation Act of 2010, Public Law 111-351, was passed into law in the 111th Congress and reauthorized the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program through fiscal year 2013. In addition, Committee

members introduced a number of bills related to FEMA and Emergency Management in the 111th Congress including:

- H.R. 1174: The FEMA Independence Act of 2009, which would have made FEMA an independent agency outside of DHS as it was prior to the creation of DHS.
- H.R. 2591: The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) Modernization Act of 2009, which would have ensured full implementation of an Executive Order issued by President George W. Bush to modernize the national public alert and warning system.
- H.R. 2592: Safe Building Code Incentive Act of 2009, which would have provided incentives to States to adopt state-wide building codes in an effort to mitigate against damage from disasters.
- H.R. 3377: Disaster Response, Recovery, and Mitigation Enhancement Act of 2009, which included a number of key provisions to improve and expedite disaster recovery efforts, ensure the effective reuse of unused FEMA housing units and supplies, and incorporated provisions from H.R. 2591 and H.R. 2592.

2. Oversight

In addition, the Subcommittee engaged in rigorous oversight of FEMA's programs, including continued oversight over the lengthy recovery process in the Gulf Coast from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The Subcommittee held 14 hearings related to FEMA and emergency management in the 111th Congress. In addition, in response to a request by the Subcommittee, the GAO issued *Emergency Preparedness: Improved Planning and Coordination Necessary for Modernization and Integration of Public Alert and Warning System*, GAO-09-834, Sep 9, 2009, which outlined the problems with the implementation of President Bush's Executive Order to develop a comprehensive public alert and warning system. The findings of the report were highlighted at a Subcommittee hearing held on September 30, 2009.

Following an exhaustive investigation into over 120,000 unused FEMA trailers decaying in storage, a Minority Staff Report entitled, "FEMA's Temporary Housing: Four Years After Katrina Thousands of Trailers Remain In Storage," was issued in October 2009. That report found that the unused trailers sitting in storage were costing the taxpayer over \$100 million annually in storage and maintenance costs. Subsequently, FEMA took action to dispose of the unused trailers and nearly all have now been sold, but many are still waiting to be removed from the storage facilities.

3. American Reinvestment and Recovery Act

FEMA received funds from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. In particular, FEMA received:

- \$150 million for Public Transportation Security Assistance and Railroad Security Assistance;

- \$150 million for Port Security Grants;
- \$210 million for the construction, upgrading or modifying of nonfederal fire stations under the Firefighter Assistance Grant program; and
- \$100 million for the Emergency Food and Shelter program.

In the 111th Congress, the Subcommittee conducted close oversight of the \$210 million for the fire station construction grants which are within the Subcommittee's jurisdiction.