



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: [Jason Kello](#) (202) 226-4970

FOLEY SEEKS ASSURANCES ON FEMA TRAILER PRICES FOR HURRICANE VICTIMS

July 31, 2006

WASHINGTON - Congressman Mark Foley (FL-16) sent a letter today to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Director of Long Term Recovery for Florida, Scott Morris, seeking assurances that, as FEMA transitions residents out of temporary recovery trailers, it will "work with each resident and price the trailers according to the individual's real ability to pay" in the event the resident wants to purchase the trailer.

"South Florida's housing prices have been steadily rising and affordable housing is becoming harder and harder to come by," said Foley. "With the deadline approaching, these hurricane victims deserve a fair chance."

In the letter, Foley states, "The soaring real estate prices, the inability to replace many of the destroyed housing structures in the area, the skyrocketing price of building supplies, and the limited government housing available, have all left many people with few alternatives other than the FEMA trailers."

A copy of the letter is provided below:

July 31, 2006

Mr. Scott Morris
Director
FEMA Long Term Recovery Office
100 Sunport Lane
Orlando, Florida 32809

Dear Scott:

I understand that the deadline for victims of Hurricanes Charley, Jeanne and Francis to move out of the trailers provided by your agency is September 26 and that FEMA is working with residents to find alternative housing or to purchase their trailers.

Many of these victims have been unable to find housing, especially "affordable" housing. The soaring real estate prices, the inability to replace many of the destroyed housing structures in the area, the skyrocketing price of building supplies, and the limited government housing available, have all left many people with few alternatives other than the FEMA trailers. However, many of the residents are

concerned that they will not be able to afford to purchase these trailers, either.

I would like assurances from you that FEMA will work with each resident and price the trailers according to the individual's real ability to pay and avoid a "one-price-fits-all" approach.

I realize that the September 26 deadline is, in fact, an extension that was granted from an earlier deadline, and that residents of the FEMA trailers have had time to look for alternative housing. But with affordable housing at a premium throughout Florida, I am concerned that there may be little options open for these trailer residents. As such, it's critical that FEMA establish selling prices for these trailers that each resident realistically can afford, as well as work with local nonprofit housing authorities to help relocate the residents.

Hopefully, your team at the FEMA Long Term Recovery Office will be able to transition these remaining victims from temporary housing to permanent housing.

As always, thanks for your continued assistance and please let me know if there is something specifically that I can do to help in that transition.

Sincerely,

Mark Foley

Member of Congress