

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 15, 2010

W. Craig Fugate
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Fugate:

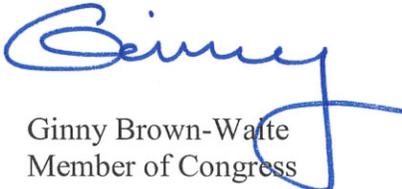
As you know, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration recently announced that the Atlantic Basin will have an "active to extremely active" hurricane season. According to NOAA, the entire Atlantic Basin may see as many as 23 named storms including up to 14 hurricanes, 3 to 7 of which could be classified as "Major Hurricanes" with winds of at least 111 mph. If projections hold true, this hurricane season could be the most active in history.

As a former Floridian, you know far too well, hurricane preparedness is a critical part of Gulf Coast living. However, this preparedness cannot be the sole responsibility of private citizens. It is essential that FEMA establish a hurricane response plan that incorporates the unique threats posed by the current Deepwater Horizon disaster. Storm surges have the capacity to carry oil in the Gulf waters into the coastline and inland as far as the surge reaches. Hurricane Katrina generated storm surges on the order of 25 ft. Similarly, Hurricane Ike storm surges reached 22 ft in Galveston, Texas.

As the former Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, you understand that storm surges of any significant magnitude would threaten Florida's multi-billion dollar fishing and tourism industries during a typical hurricane season. However, in light of the Gulf oil spill, the effects of oil-contaminated debris combined with the storm surge could be disastrous for the entire Florida economy and ecosystem. Given your track record in the past, I know that you are taking these issues seriously and that the most comprehensive plan possible will be forthcoming, but as a representative of the potentially affected communities, I need to be able to assure my constituents that the Administration is being proactive on this issue.

The threat of hurricanes is imminent and it is my hope that you will clearly articulate what FEMA is doing to prepare for the possibility that a hurricane or tropical storm could carry oil and weathered oil products to Florida's beaches. Thank you in advance for your prompt response to these concerns.

Sincerely,



Ginny Brown-Waite
Member of Congress