



**FEMA**

AUG 20 2009

Dr. G. Kemble Bennett  
Office of the Vice Chancellor  
Texas A & M University  
301 Wisenbaker  
College Station, Texas 77843-3126

Dear Dr. Bennett:

Thank you for your letter to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) conveying the National Advisory Council's (NAC) recommendation regarding the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) authority and funding for their disaster housing mission.

We believe that the Disaster Housing Assistance Program has been a valuable resource for meeting the needs of hundreds of disaster survivors. As you know, the initial activation of this program was a pilot initiative, and many lessons learned were used to implement this program in 2008 following Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. FEMA is currently working with HUD to further identify lessons learned and best practices that will allow a smooth transition of applicants should this program be implemented in future disasters. In consultation with the Department of Homeland Security and the Office of Management and Budget, FEMA will provide guidance and funding, and determine the feasibility of additional blanket authorities for this program.

Additionally, the National Disaster Housing Task Force has been actively coordinating with the NAC throughout the process of drafting the Implementation Plan for the National Disaster Housing Strategy. We consider the NAC's input to be critical to our success, and look forward to future recommendations and continued coordination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Garratt", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Garratt  
Acting Deputy Administrator