

wonderful example of such a school. It is with great pride and appreciation for the role that students, faculty, staff, and alumni at North High play in North St. Paul and surrounding communities that I submit this statement for the official United States CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRICANE KATRINA, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2005

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, today our thoughts and prayers are with the thousands of citizens in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama who have lost everything to Hurricane Katrina—their homes, their livelihoods, their families. Assisting people as they rebuild their lives after this unprecedented natural disaster is a moral responsibility of government. Like my colleagues, my top concern remains the search and rescue efforts underway on the ground in this affected region, and I am grateful for the heroic efforts of the relief workers who have joined in this effort.

I am encouraged that the battered Gulf Coast region will receive \$10.5 billion in emergency funding from Congress, funding that will aid critical evacuation and recovery efforts as well as allow this area to begin to recover.

However, the issue is less whether we have the money for this—we will—than whether it will be used efficiently. Despite early warnings regarding the damage a hurricane could cause to this region, it appears the President's budget underfunded countless flood control and prevention projects.

At the same time, there are serious questions regarding the administration's competence in responding to this tragedy. In particular, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's incoherent response in the days following this disaster has been, in a word, unacceptable. The American people, writing and calling our offices here in Congress, are demanding accountability from their government.

In the coming days, they will begin to get answers. But today, I want to urge the President to take responsibility and move the Federal Government to action. That must be our continuing goal.

And so, Mr. Speaker, this emergency funding is a necessary first step on what will surely be a long road to recovery, and I urge my colleagues to support it. In the coming days, I will be working with my colleagues to ensure that it is used expeditiously and appropriately. The American people and the victims of this unprecedented natural disaster deserve no less.

INTRODUCING THE RICE FARMERS FAIRNESS ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing the Rice Farmers Fairness Act. This

legislation conditions the continuation of farm subsidies in the state of Texas upon the maintenance of rice production. Federal law allows for the continuation of subsidies to landowners who discontinue tenant rice farming on their land. In essence, this means that the subsidy continues to flow in spite of an end to production.

This is a "something for nothing" subsidy of the worst kind! As a result of this provision, there is a very real threat to the agricultural infrastructure. With landowners receiving subsidies in spite of lack of production, the entire warehousing, processing and "value-added" industries are put at risk.

As grain elevators, processors and others see a reduction in demand for their services because of the diminution of production permitted by Federal law, they have a disincentive to continue to provide said services, services which must remain in place in order for those who remain in production to be able to bring to market the rice which they continue to produce. Thus, by way of the decimation of the infrastructure, this subsidy to non-producers comes at the expense of those who continue to produce rice. Therefore, the provisions of Federal law which provide this subsidy actually amount to another form of Federal welfare, taking from producers and giving to non-producers. These destructive government policies have particularly pernicious effect in Texas, where rice farming, and the related industries, are a major sector of the economy in many towns along the Texas coast.

My legislation is very simple and direct in dealing with this problem. It says that those who have tenant rice farmers producing rice in Texas must agree to continue to maintain rice in their crop rotation if they wish to receive subsidies. In this way, we can remove the perverse incentive, which the Federal Government has provided to landowners to exit the rice business and thereby put the entire rice infrastructure at risk.

America's rice farmers are the most efficient, effective producers of rice in the world, despite the many hurdles erected by Washington. The Rice Farmer Fairness Act helps remove one of these hurdles and this makes America's rice farmers even more efficient. In order to enhance our competitive position, we should also end our embargoes of other nations. Congress should eliminate the burdensome taxes and regulations imposed on America's farmers. I hope my colleagues will join me in removing these federally imposed burdens on rice farmers by supporting free trade, low taxes and regulations, and cosponsoring my Rice Farmer Fairness Act.

A CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE TO ARCHITECT FRANK GEHRY'S WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL ON THE OCCASION OF THE HALL'S INCLUSION IN THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE'S 2005 MASTERWORKS OF MODERN ARCHITECTURE SERIES

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2005

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate famed architect Frank

Gehry for having his building, the Walt Disney Concert Hall, included in the U.S. Postal Service's 2005 Masterworks of Modern Architecture series. The hall is one of 12 modern structures in the nation—and the only one on the West Coast—featured in the postal stamp collection now on sale at post offices throughout the country.

As part of this series, the Walt Disney Concert Hall is among a distinguished collection that includes the Guggenheim Museum in New York City, the Hancock Center tower in Chicago and the East Building of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC.

Located in my congressional district in downtown Los Angeles, the Walt Disney Concert Hall draws national attention to Los Angeles and serves as the centerpiece of downtown's successful revitalization that includes showcasing the area's diverse artistic and cultural offerings.

Occupying a full city block on the historic Bunker Hill, the concert hall serves most notably as the home of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and its 3.6 acre site also includes California's smallest state park. Traveling at the intersection of First Street and Grand Avenue, passersby quickly take notice of Mr. Gehry's stunning design. The hall's bold eye-catching exterior is comprised of enormous curves made of stainless steel. Its expansive transparent doors and windows stretch along Grand Avenue and welcome the public to come inside. A futuristic-style external aerial walkway begins on Grand Avenue, and lifts visitors up and across the front of the venue, offering views of City Hall and beyond, and eventually winding around to the garden level on the other side of the building.

The interior of the hall is just as original. Acoustically designed by the world-renowned Yasuhisa Toyota, the hardwood-paneled main auditorium is lauded as state of the art. Even the seating arrangement is insightful. Theatergoers are seated on all sides of the orchestra and the absence of private boxes—common in most concert halls—adds a unique element to the experience.

The history of the origin of this national landmark is as inspirational as Mr. Gehry's creative genius. In 1987, Walt Disney's widow Lillian Disney gave a \$50 million gift to the community to build the concert hall as a way of paying tribute to her late husband's lifelong commitment to the arts.

Sixteen years later, when the building opened its doors in 2003, the completed Walt Disney Concert Hall stood as a proud collaboration of effort, talent and vision. There are many to thank for helping to make the Walt Disney Concert Hall a reality, including, but not limited to, the ironworkers who built the hall's exterior and the many financial sponsors who worked with The Music Center, the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association, the County of Los Angeles and the Disney family to obtain the funding needed to complete the project.

It is truly because of their devotion and hard work that so many visitors from all over the world have had the opportunity to enjoy Mr. Gehry's architectural masterpiece that stands today.

On behalf of all Angelenos, I congratulate Mr. Gehry for being recognized in this special way by the U.S. Postal Service and, above all, I thank him for giving Los Angeles a cultural and architectural jewel that will surely be enjoyed for generations to come.