



## Louisiana Has Been Treated Unfairly After Katrina and Rita: Kopplin

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9/18/07

Has Louisiana and New Orleans been treated fairly in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita? Yesterday, the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government and the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana released a report on federal funding in response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The report can be found [here](#):

In response, Andy Kopplin, the Louisiana Recovery Authority Executive Director responded with a comment. It should be noted that there are some who believe that Louisiana has received what it is entitled. One Republican Presidential Candidate Tom Tancredo of Colorado said there should be a moratorium on the amount of Katrina spending. President Bush has also repeatedly promoted the amounts allocated as being substantial but has left the door open for additional spending. Here is Kopplin's response, written Monday:

Today's GulfGov Report serves as an independent validation of what we have been saying to Washington for many months. The

federal funding allocated for Louisiana's recovery has not been proportional to our damages and the dollars that have been appropriated through the Stafford Act and CDBG program flow at a trickle, much too slowly for the kind of urgent rebuilding effort our communities need.

Red tape needs to be cut and reconstruction funds provided fairly to states in proportion to damages. The Stafford Act needs to be overhauled so that it works effectively after a catastrophe. After events like Katrina and Rita, the federal response should be focused on speed and results rather than haggling over project worksheets with FEMA or following decades-old precedents under the CDBG program.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated South Louisiana, claiming 1,464 lives, destroying more than 200,000 homes and 18,000 businesses. The Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) is the planning and coordinating body that was created in the aftermath of these storms by Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco to lead one of the most extensive rebuilding efforts in the world. The LRA is a 33-member body which is coordinating across jurisdictions and supporting community recovery.

[http://www.bayoubuzz.com/News/Louisiana/Hurricane\\_Rita/Louisiana\\_Has\\_Been\\_Treated\\_Unfairly\\_After\\_Katrina\\_and\\_Rita\\_Kopplin\\_4702.asp](http://www.bayoubuzz.com/News/Louisiana/Hurricane_Rita/Louisiana_Has_Been_Treated_Unfairly_After_Katrina_and_Rita_Kopplin_4702.asp)