

By: Cortez

H.R. No. 987

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Public Assistance Program of the Federal
2 Emergency Management Agency provides grants to state and local
3 governments to assist them with their response to and recovery from
4 disasters; and

5 WHEREAS, Under current FEMA policy, the agency sets a
6 gross-value financial damage threshold that must be met before a
7 disaster declaration is issued to allow qualification for the
8 Public Assistance Program; and

9 WHEREAS, Property values often vary greatly in counties and
10 cities struck by catastrophic events, and some communities within
11 an affected area have lower than average property values that place
12 them at a severe disadvantage in seeking aid; and

13 WHEREAS, An economically distressed community may suffer the
14 same degree of destruction as an affluent neighborhood nearby, but
15 the dollar amount of damage would be less because the original
16 property value was much lower; as a result, a less prosperous
17 community might not be able to meet the gross-value financial
18 damage threshold established by FEMA, even if the impact of the
19 disaster was just as significant as in the other communities; and

20 WHEREAS, The need for disaster relief in a community is not
21 evenly reflected in the dollar amount of damage, and communities
22 should not be penalized because they were less affluent than their
23 neighbors before misfortune befell the entire area; now, therefore,
24 be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
2 Legislature hereby respectfully request that the Federal Emergency
3 Management Agency amend its financial threshold criteria for
4 providing disaster aid to allow assistance to communities whose
5 average property value is lower than the applicable local county or
6 city average; and, be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the chief clerk forward an official copy of
8 this resolution to the administrator of the Federal Emergency
9 Management Agency.