86R34298 BPG-F

By:  Bonnen of Galveston H.C.R. No. 178

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Hurricane Harvey struck the Texas coast on August 25, 2017, causing an estimated $125 billion in damage; and

WHEREAS, The second-most destructive storm in American history, Hurricane Harvey impacted approximately 30 percent of the population of Texas, destroying homes, damaging infrastructure, and displacing thousands of families along the coast; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Emergency Management Agency received nearly 900,000 applications from affected Texans for some form of assistance; as many as 83 percent of people whose homes flooded did not maintain flood insurance, creating unprecedented demand for state and federal disaster recovery assistance; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Housing and Urban Development's Federal Register notices for Hurricane Harvey require that 70 percent of Community Development Block Grant for Disaster Recovery funds be used for activities that benefit low- to moderate-income persons in aggregate; and

WHEREAS, City and county officials have criticized this requirement because the way that it is applied focuses on counties with large concentrations of low-income families; in practice, it excludes aid to lower-income people who live in less-populated counties that are home to some higher-income families, causing such counties to receive limited or no funds because they did not meet threshold requirements for income levels; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to enact legislation directing the Department of Housing and Urban Development to rewrite the formula for the allocation of Community Development Block Grant for Disaster Recovery funds to low- and moderate-income people so that all people in these categories are assisted; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.