

## Braley Supported Bill to Prevent Damage from Future Flooding, Natural Disasters Passes House

Today, Rep. Bruce Braley (D-Iowa) supported a bill that would take proactive steps to minimize future damage from floods and other natural disasters. The Pre-Disaster Mitigation Act of 2008 (HR 6109) provides the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with funding dedicated to reducing the impact and costs of natural disasters.

Washington, DC - Today, Rep. Bruce Braley (D-Iowa) supported a bill that would take proactive steps to minimize future damage from floods and other natural disasters. The Pre-Disaster Mitigation Act of 2008 (HR 6109) provides the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with funding dedicated to reducing the impact and costs of natural disasters.

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation Act passed the House today by voice vote.

"The floods of 2008 have affected nearly every Iowan, causing damage that nearly defies description," Braley said. "While Iowans begin the recovery process, it is important that the government helps communities rebuild from the current floods while also looking to prevent unnecessary damage tomorrow. I'm proud that the House took action to protect Iowa's communities from the costs of future natural disasters."

FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program works to reduce the cost of disasters to individuals and communities through actions such as the purchase of frequently flooded homes and investment in early-warning systems for tornadoes. States apply for grants under the program, with a minimum amount guaranteed to each state.

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation Act of 2008 would increase total program funding to \$250 million per year, an increase from \$114 million in FY2008. This legislation would also increase the minimum amount guaranteed to Iowa by at least \$75,000.

Last year, Braley secured \$200,000 from FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program for the City of Davenport. This funding will be used to purchase flood-prone properties.

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation Act of 2008 passed out of the Transportation Committee, with Braley's support, on May 22, 2008. Braley is a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.