

## Braley Introduces Bill to Prevent Damage from Future Flooding, Natural Disasters

Rep. Bruce Braley (D-Iowa) announced his support for the Disaster Response, Recovery and Mitigation Enhancement Act (HR 6658), which would provide funding for important disaster recovery programs and pre-disaster mitigation efforts. This legislation was introduced late last night, with Braley as an original co-sponsor.

Washington, DC - Rep. Bruce Braley (D-Iowa) announced his support for the Disaster Response, Recovery and Mitigation Enhancement Act (HR 6658), which would provide funding for important disaster recovery programs and pre-disaster mitigation efforts. This legislation was introduced late last night, with Braley as an original co-sponsor.

"The floods of 2008 caused unprecedented damage to Iowa's homes, livelihoods and businesses," Braley said. "We must provide Iowans with the resources needed to rebuild today, while also looking to prevent unnecessary damage tomorrow. This bill is essential to help Iowans continue down the long road to recovery."

The Disaster Response, Recovery and Mitigation Enhancement Act reauthorizes several Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) programs, including the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program. The PDM program helps states reduce the cost of disasters by taking preemptive actions to minimize future injuries and property damage. PDM programs include funding for local governments to purchase flooded and flood-prone properties. The bill also modernizes public alert and warning systems.

This bill would increase the minimum amount of PDM funding each state receives by \$75,000, to a total of \$575,000. States apply for grants under the PDM program, with a minimum amount guaranteed to each state. This program is currently scheduled to expire on September 30, 2008.

The Disaster Response, Recovery and Mitigation Enhancement Act will be considered today by the House Transportation Committee.