



April 28, 2006

Dear Friends:

Eight months after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast, children and students impacted by the disaster still lack adequate schools, health care and safe places to play. Our fellow Gulf Coast citizens deserve a greater sense of urgency from Washington as they work to recover from this tragedy. This week, Democrats on the Education & Workforce Committee issued a [new report](#) on the Bush Administration's continued failure to meet the basic needs of students attending schools and colleges in the Gulf Coast. Read my remarks [calling for the creation of a new Katrina Education Recovery Czar](#).

For the first time in the 109th Congress, the House International Relations Committee held a hearing on U.S. policy towards Iraq. Despite my repeated efforts to seek hearings into waste, fraud and abuse related to the Bush Administration's Iraq policy, Republican leaders have been avoiding hearings on the most important foreign policy issue facing our nation. Read [my statement during the Committee hearing](#).

On Thursday, the House Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands held a hearing on the Mississippi River Trail Study Act (H.R. 1795), legislation I introduced to establish a study to create a national trail along the Mississippi River from Minnesota to Louisiana. This bill is a first step toward preserving the river's natural treasures and recognizing the Mississippi River's historic and cultural value to our country. Read [my testimony to the Subcommittee on the Mississippi River Trail Study Act](#).

Sincerely,

Congresswoman Betty McCollum
Serving Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District

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