

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Jo Bonner (R-AL) today announced the award of \$7.5 million to the Alabama Emergency Management Agency by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The project funding is to be used for the construction of a new community shelter at the Baldwin County Cattle and Fair Association.

"This is good news for the people of south Alabama," Bonner said today. "Hurricane season is fast approaching and shelter space in Baldwin County is at a critical low.

The lessons learned from the past several hurricane seasons have shown we must have safe, accessible shelters available."

The \$7.5 million grant, administered through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant program, represents a 75 percent federal share of the total project cost of \$10 million. The Baldwin County Commission and the Baldwin County Cattle and Fair Association will provide the remaining 25 percent of the project's cost.

The shelter will be built according to "FEMA 361 Design and Construction Guidelines," and will be able to accommodate 1900 occupants and withstand wind gusts of up to 200 miles per hour.

Construction is scheduled to begin on June 24, 2006, and is expected to be completed by May 30, 2007.

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