

MOBILE - Cong. Jo Bonner, R-Alabama, today issued the following statement regarding the disaster assistance programs available for the residents of the First District as a result of the recent landfall of Hurricane Dennis:

“As a result of the recent arrival of Hurricane Dennis, many of the residents of south Alabama found their homes and businesses affected by high winds, tremendous rainfall, and other factors associated with the storm. Thanks to the quick action by Governor Bob Riley, officials with local and state emergency management offices, and the administration, Alabama was quickly declared eligible for disaster assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Small Business Administration (SBA).

“While the categories of assistance differ based on the location of the affected counties, I would encourage anyone with questions on their eligibility to immediately contact the FEMA help line at 1-800-621-3362. My office also stands ready to assist, and my staff and I can be reached by calling 1-800-288-8721.”

According to the presidential disaster declaration issued by President Bush on July 10, 2005, Baldwin, Escambia, and Mobile Counties are eligible for assistance through the Individual Assistance Program, and all six counties of the First District are eligible for assistance through the Economic Injury Program. The Individual Assistance Program provides financial assistance to both individuals and households affected by Hurricane Dennis, and applications will be accepted for this program until September 8, 2005. The Economic Injury Program provides financial assistance to state and local governments, as well as designated nonprofit organizations, for use in the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the storm; the deadline for applications through this program is April 10, 2006.