



**NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby**  
**Position on**  
**Gulf Coast Recovery**

**BACKGROUND:** Thousands of residents of the Gulf Coast remain in trailers or other temporary housing in the region, or have been unable to return to the region. This is particularly true of low-wage workers, and of minorities who want desperately to return to their native environment. Those living in trailers continue to live in unhealthy environments. Public housing was destroyed, without low-cost housing being rebuilt. Secure and safe homes are needed. The thousands unable to return face a number of difficulties: there is not sufficient affordable housing, they haven't the funds to afford a move, there are not available jobs and they lack the training to perform what jobs have been available.

NETWORK supports passage and implementation of legislation which would address the difficulties faced by those most devastated by the hurricanes of 2005 and those since. H.R. 4048 introduced in 2008 would be a model for this.

- **REBUILD VITAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND RESTORE THE ENVIRONMENT**, including:
  - Rebuilding and repairing public infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, emergency and safety centers and water and sewer systems.
  - Construct flood protection which restores marshes and wetlands
- **CREATE JOBS AND JOB TRAINING FOR RESIDENTS, INCLUDING:**
  - Work for young adults
  - Work which will restore wetlands, increase forestation and provide urban greenery,
- **SPURS SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**, **engaging** local advisory councils in planning and decision-making, and focusing economic benefits on the regional economy.
- **REQUIRE ACCOUNTABILITY UNDER A REGIONAL STRUCTURE** to provide oversight and transparency.

12/15/08

Contact: Marge Clark, BVM [mclark@networklobby.org](mailto:mclark@networklobby.org), 202-347-9797 x211