



**One Hundred Eleventh Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20515**

April 30, 2009

Nancy Ward
Acting Administrator
Federal Emergency Management
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Acting Administrator Ward:

I recently had the opportunity to review FEMA's solicitation for low emissions travel trailers, namely, solicitation number HSFEHQ-09-R-0019. I was pleased to learn that FEMA selected four small, minority, veteran and women owned businesses to fulfill the solicitation's requirements. The selection of the chosen businesses is a step in the right direction as economic sustainability will not be achieved without continued support of our nation's small and minority owned businesses.

I would also like to commend FEMA on its January 2009 publication of the National Disaster Housing Strategy, as mandated by the Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006. This publication is another positive step forward and should prove to be instructive on how FEMA will manage preparation, response and recovery efforts, in the event of a catastrophic incident. The plan indicates that FEMA will use travel trailers, park models, manufactured homes, and alternative housing options for future catastrophes.

I do, however, have several questions regarding FEMA's plans to implement this strategy, particularly as it relates to the procurement of temporary housing units. I am also interested in ascertaining how these procurement efforts fit into the larger housing strategy.

With these observations in mind, please provide written responses to the following questions:

1) Based on current contracts, what is the maximum number of temporary housing units FEMA could provide if there were a catastrophe requiring temporary housing?

2) Based on FEMA's planning efforts and responses to actual events, what is the range of FEMA's housing capacity needs in the wake of a catastrophic incident?

3) Pursuant to the solicitation, FEMA has the option of ordering a total of 6,000 units from each contractor, divided equally among the four contracts, each year for five years. Will each contractor commence its work simultaneously or will the delivery orders be staggered among the four vendors? Additionally, how will FEMA determine the ordering precedence in light of the time-sensitive nature of post-catastrophe housing needs?

4) How will FEMA ensure that all housing units procured in the future meet the stringent emission standards established by the National Disaster Housing Strategy's Joint Task Force?

5) What are the range of costs for travel trailers, park models, manufactured homes, and alternative housing options?

6) Where does FEMA anticipate storing trailers that are not in use and what plan does FEMA have in place for retiring or disposing of trailers that are no longer needed or deemed to be uninhabitable based on prior usage.

Pursuant to Rule X(3)(g) and Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, please provide me with a written response to the above questions no later than May 14, 2009. If you or any member of your staff would like to further discuss this request, please contact Cherri Branson, Chief Oversight Counsel, Homeland Security Committee at (202)226-2616. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson
Chairman