

PHIL HARE
17TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

428 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1317

PHONE: (202) 225-5905
FAX: (202) 225-5396

<http://hare.house.gov>
(Email through Website)

REGIONAL WHIP



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1317

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WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

March 31, 2009

Governor Pat Quinn
Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Quinn:

On June 17th of 2008 the levee protecting Gulfport was breached, flooding the town and hundreds of acres of farmland. Flood water was still being pumped out of Gulfport in August of 2008. The town was a total loss.

On March 21st of this year I met with residents of Gulfport and Henderson County and toured their town. I was shocked by what I saw and saddened by what I heard. More than nine months later recovery is at a stand still. The people of Gulfport feel they have been ignored and forgotten in their struggle to rebuild their lives. While I know much effort has been put forth on the state and federal level on flood recovery Gulfport has not been visited by any state or federal official before my visit. One of our first duties as elected officials is to listen to the needs of those we serve.

I would like to invite you to meet with the people of Gulfport and hear their stories. State and federal agencies teamed admirably during the flood and its immediate aftermath. We need to make sure we remain focused on recovering from this disaster and talk about ways to make sure that the recovery process works better in the future. Most importantly we need to reassure the people of Gulfport that they are not forgotten.

I thank you for your consideration. I look forward to meeting with you in Gulfport at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Phil Hare".

PHIL HARE
Member of Congress

PLEASE REPLY TO:

2001 52ND AVENUE, #5
MOLINE, IL 61265
(309) 793-5760

261 NORTH BROAD, #5
GALESBURG, IL 61401
(309) 342-4411

236 NORTH WATER STREET, #765
DECATUR, IL 62523
(217) 422-9150

210 NORTH BROAD
CARLINVILLE, IL 62626
(217) 854-2290

DISTRICT TOLL FREE: 800-322-6210

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