

Good morning. Thank you all for attending today's markup. And thank you all for your work to bring the legislation we will mark up today to this point. We have a full agenda, so let's get started.

At the top of the list today is the nomination of Vice Admiral Harvey Johnson to be Deputy Administrator for FEMA.

Admiral Johnson has been and will continue to be a key figure in FEMA's continuing growth if he is confirmed as FEMA Deputy Administrator. He has shown his commitment to working to integrate preparedness functions into FEMA and strengthening FEMA's regional teams, and I intend to support the nomination.

I hope we will also report out S. 2606 today – the U.S. Fire Administration Reauthorization Act, which reauthorizes appropriations for the USFA through Fiscal Year 2012. I am proud to be a co sponsor of this important bill, with Senator Collins and others.

We have several other pieces of legislation to consider:

- **H.R. 3247, the Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Recovery Facilitation Act of 2007**, from Senator Landrieu which contains a series of changes to Stafford Act programs that will apply retroactively *only* to the ongoing recovery efforts from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
- **S. 2291, the Plain Language in Government Communications Act of 2007**, introduced by Senator Akaka, would require federal documents describing a program, benefit, or service to be written in plain language.
- **H.R. 3179, the Local Preparedness Acquisition Act**
- **S. 2420: Federal Food Donation Act**
- **S. 789: Government Credit Card Abuse Prevention Act**  
and several post office naming bills.

Again, thank you all from coming today so we can move these bills to the full Senate. Senator Collins?