

the Nation's mail. As provided in Public Law 107-38, the reallocation would be effective 15 days from the date of this transmittal.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

**Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on Funding for the Disaster Relief Program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency**

May 15, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with provisions of Public Law 107-73, the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002, I hereby request and make available \$500 million for the Disaster Relief program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

These funds will allow FEMA to continue providing assistance to victims of disasters in several States, including victims of recent tornadoes in Maryland and storms and flooding in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia. These funds also would be available for ongoing response to prior disasters and to ensure that FEMA has resources on hand to provide timely response to future disasters.

I designate the \$500 million made available today as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

**Remarks at the National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast**

May 16, 2002

**The President.** Thank you all. *Sientense.* [Laughter]

**Audience member.** [Inaudible].

**The President.** *Sí. Muchas gracias.* [Laughter]

Thank you all for such a warm welcome. It is *un honor para mí de estar aquí para le*—the first—the first—not the last but the first—[laughter]—National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast. I want to tell you it's an honor to be here amongst people who dedicate their lives to the embetterment of our fellow human beings. I appreciate that a lot.

I want to thank Luis. I met with Luis; one of the things that struck me was he is a—he'll say sergeant; I say general—in the army of compassion in Philadelphia. I loved his compassion. Not only is he a man of God; he also understands the importance of education. We talked about a charter school he wanted to start in his neighborhood. He understands what I understand, that when you have quality education, you improve inner-city America. And so, Luis, I want to thank you for your focus on education. We must continue to work to make sure *todos los niños puedan leer*.

I want to thank Mel Martinez. *Dónde está Mel?* Anyway, he's somewhere here. He's a member of my Cabinet. You may remember the story about Mel. He's the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development now. As a young boy, his mother and daddy put him on an airplane to America from Cuba. He was a part of Operation Pedro Pan. They wanted their son to be raised in freedom. They longed for freedom and were willing to take the risk to send their loved one to the land of freedom. And now I'm proud he has gone from a young *niñito* in Pedro Pan; today, he is now the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. And it shows the wonderful spirit and strength of our country.

I want to thank the Members of Congress who are here. I see I've got Senators here and Members of the Congress. Thank you all for coming. It's important that you're here, and I appreciate you being here as well.