

January 14, 2005

Via Email

The Honorable Paul Sarbanes
Suite 309
Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
Suite 709
Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: FEMA Fraud and Corruption

Dear Senators Sarbanes and Mikulski:

According to the attached article, Senator Nelson learned of wrongdoing in FEMA and asked Senator Collins and Lieberman to investigate. Only four days after the Senate resumed, Senators Collins and Lieberman announced they would initiate a probe as requested.

The Governmental Affairs Committee plans to investigate allegations of fraud and waste in the distribution of FEMA aide to Florida and other states hit by hurricanes last year. The inquiry was sparked after it was learned FEMA paid out aide dollars for areas untouched by storms.

We cannot understand why you both remain silent in the wake of these issues. The attached letters clearly indicate you were made aware of FEMA problems much larger than those Senator Nelson referred to. In this instance, failure to pay monies owed has caused untold human suffering and destruction of many families.

We are asking you again to speak out on our behalf. Please take the lead in bringing FEMA's problems that caused, and continue to cause, dreadful suffering nearly one and one half years after Isabel, to the attention of the Governmental Affairs Committee and the media.

We have waited long enough and need you to act now. If you were homeless you would expect your legislators, as we do, to send more than one letter calling for an investigation. We expect you to bring the problems in FEMA that potentially affect all Marylanders to the attention of everyone that can help remedy the problems.

Please understand we will no longer sit quietly in our campers and garages while you and your staff hope we go away.

Sincerely,

Debbie and Geraldo Simon
6928 River Side Road
Baltimore, MD 21219
Cell 443 834-4766

Charlene and Bud Kotrla
2822 Bay Drive
Baltimore, MD 21219
410 388-0808

Bob, Karen, Seth and Frank Valentin
6916 Gunder Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21220
Cell 443 506-5610

Jim, Eileen, Bonny and Katie Thaden
1206 Bayview Avenue
Shady Side, MD 20764
Cell 410 991-5960

Attachments

[Senator Collins calls for Governmental Affairs Investigation](#)

[Additional 150 victims who asked us to add their names to this letter](#)

[Letter to Senator Sarbanes dated 12/13/04](#)

[Letter to Congressman Ruppertsberger dated 12/15/04](#)

cc: Senator Collins
Senator Leiberman
Congressman Tom Davis, Chairman Committee on Government Reform
John Mintz, The Washington Post
Jay Apperson, The Baltimore Sun
Sarah Ensor, The Star Democrat
Jean Jordan, The Sun-Sentinel
Sally Kestin and Megan O'Matz, The Sun-Sentinel
Mr. Montel Williams
Bill Sizemore, The Virginian Pilot
Novelda Sommers, The Daily Press
Mary Bubala, WJZ TV
Dwight Weems, FOX 45 TV
Christy Wicks, FOX 45 TV
Rod Daniels, WBAL TV 11
Scott Broom, WMAR TV 2
Chris Ciffate, WINK TV
Steve Kanstoroom, www.femainfo.us
Isabel Victims Group