

December 11, 2006

Press Release | Contact: Danielle Langone (202) 225-6416

WASHINGTON, DC—The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) confirmed that the State of Oregon is due reimbursement for services the Oregon National Guard provided in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. FEMA Deputy Director Harvey Johnson sent a letter today to the state of Louisiana stating that the Oregon National Guard should be reimbursed by the state of Louisiana for the \$2.7 million Oregon is owed. FEMA will compensate Louisiana for this amount.

Last week, DeFazio and the entire Oregon congressional delegation sent a letter to Acting FEMA Director R. David Paulison informing him of the shortfall the Oregon Military Department faced without FEMA's reimbursement, and urging him to remedy this oversight as soon as possible. Thanks to the delegation's efforts, as well as prior contact with the Department of Homeland Security by DeFazio, the Oregon National Guard will be reimbursed in full.

Because of the federal government's belated response to Hurricane Katrina, Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco enlisted the Oregon National Guard to assist in the relief effort. The Oregon National Guard exceeded expectations by deploying over 2,100 soldiers and their equipment to New Orleans in less than three days. Last September, DeFazio and Rep. Darlene Hooley visited the troops deployed to New Orleans to observe the important and challenging work they were doing.