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## Support the Gulf Coast Housing Recovery Act - S. 1668

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Labor Council on December 10, 2007 unanimously approved a resolution protesting the planned demolition of the St. Bernard, Lafitte, C.J. Peete and B.W.Cooper public housing developments in New Orleans [which would destroy 4,500 housing units], by the federal Department of Housing & Urban Development and the New Orleans Housing Authority. The resolution called for the tens of millions of dollars earmarked for the demolition to be spent instead to increase the number of low-income, affordable housing units in New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill S.1668, the Gulf Coast Housing Recovery Act, calls for one-for-one affordable replacement of any public housing units demolished, and honors the right of return of New Orleans residents displaced by the floods of Katrina and Rita. Passage of S.1668 is considered a priority by New Orleans public housing advocates and hundreds of fair housing and anti-poverty organizations nationwide. The bill is co-sponsored by Senators Chris Dodd, Barbara Boxer, Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, Sherrod Brown, John Kerry, Robert Menendez, Jack Reed, Robert Casey, Dick Durbin, and Mary Landrieu of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, a similar House version of this bill, HR 1227, easily passed the House last year with the support of House Speaker Pelosi, who together with Senate Majority leader Harry Reid wrote a letter to President Bush asking for a 60 day delay in any New Orleans public housing demolitions, to give Congress the opportunity to take action on the Gulf Coast Recovery Act. Senators Obama and Clinton have similarly asked for a delay in New Orleans public housing demolitions until Congress can act

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Labor Council go on record supporting S. 1668, the Gulf Coast Housing Recovery Act, which calls for one-for-one affordable replacement of any public housing units demolished, and honors the right of return of New Orleans residents displaced by the floods of Katrina and Rita; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council urge the California Labor Federation and AFL-CIO to really get behind this bill, and in particular to urge key members of the Senate Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs Committee as well as Senator Feinstein to co-sponsor the bill and get it out of committee and onto the floor of the Senate.

Submitted by Dave Welsh, NALC 214, and unanimously adopted by the San Francisco Labor Council on January 14, 2008.

Respectfully,

Tim Paulson  
Executive Director  
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