

TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2009

LIEBERMAN STATEMENT ON FEMA FRAUD PREVENTION REPORT

WASHINGTON—Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Joe Lieberman, ID-Conn issued the following reaction to a new Government Accountability Office (GAO) report showing that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has significantly improved its fraud prevention controls, but still has much work to do to improve individual assistance for disaster survivors. The report can be accessed here (http://handy.gsolutions.com/gov/senate/bankingcommittee/sitedirector/_fckeditor/editor/.http://www.gao.gov/new.it)

“I am heartened to learn that since FEMA instituted stricter fraud controls on disaster services after Hurricane Katrina, it has assisted survivors of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike with less fraud, waste, and abuse of taxpayer dollars. The fraud controls were a key element of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act, which Senator Collins and I cosponsored, so I am pleased to see they are working. FEMA must now follow GAO’s recommendations to improve its disaster services even more so that disaster survivors can be assisted with speed and efficiency.”