

**Resolution to Commend Senator Jack Reed for His Efforts to Recognize Libraries  
as Essential Community Organizations During Disasters**

- WHEREAS,** libraries play an essential role in providing government and emergency response and recovery services and support for dislocated people in the aftermath of disasters, including Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; and
- WHEREAS,** government agencies increasingly refer the public to libraries for government services; and
- WHEREAS,** libraries have demonstrated their ongoing effectiveness in delivering emergency response and recovery services including providing Internet access so that those affected are able to complete online Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) applications and insurance forms, reconnect with family members, locate shelters and to obtain health care services; and
- WHEREAS,** in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, FEMA did not recognize libraries as essential community organizations, which would entitle libraries to temporary relocation facility reimbursements or provide any financial or other assistance to libraries for their work; and
- WHEREAS,** Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) was instrumental in working to convince FEMA to change its policies and recognize libraries as essential community organizations; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** that the American Library Association (ALA) commends Senator Jack Reed for his tireless efforts working to convince the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to amend its policies to recognize libraries as essential community organizations, thus entitled to reimbursement for temporary relocation facilities.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association  
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Keith Michael Fiels  
ALA Executive Director and  
Secretary to the ALA Council