



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 6, 2006**  
**lrld.louisiana.gov**

**CONTACT: Rep. Tucker**  
**Sen. Schedler**  
**225.342.6287**

### **REPUBLICANS CHAMPIONED REFORM THROUGH SESSION**

BATON ROUGE - Though the 2006 1<sup>st</sup> Extraordinary Session was called under the Governor's direction, it was the leadership of the Republican Delegation, which was able to evoke a legislative package of reforms bills during the 12-day session. In a contentious session filled with partisan politics, Republican-led leaders were "personally involved" and worked tirelessly in the spirit of compromise to bring about reform through the consolidation of levee boards and the consolidation of New Orleans government in order to satisfy the cries of Louisiana's citizenry and business community.

As in the 2005 1<sup>st</sup> Extraordinary Session, Delegation members followed the lead of Senator Walter Boasso, R-St. Bernard by proposing several levee board reform bills to meet federal mandates to secure \$12 million in federal funding. Republican legislators including Representative Tim Burns, R-Mandeville; Representative Pete Schneider, R-Slidell; Representative Danny Martiny, R-Metairie (HB 52) and Representative Jim Tucker, R-Algiers were all authors of several levee board consolidation bills. Ultimately, Senator Boasso's vision and passion for levee board reform through Senate Bills 8 and 9 came to fruition.

Unfortunately, Governor Blanco and her administration elected to withdraw their support for the consolidation of New Orleans government legislation in which she made a priority within the call. Under legislation sponsored by Representative Peppi Bruneau R-New Orleans and Speaker Salter, the Governor and her floor leader abandoned \*HB 57 calling for the consolidation of Orleans Parish district courts and clerks, sheriffs, and other judicial officials and officers of Orleans Parish. Such efficiency would have gone a long way in saving taxpayers' dollars and shrinking many bloated and unnecessary bureaucratic functions. We call upon the Governor to make this issue a priority during the regular session.

Other items in which the Delegation supported include but are not limited to the following:

- Led efforts prohibiting the automatic exclusion of certain coverage under a homeowner's policy for damages due to a declared disaster (HB 17).
- Led by Republican amendments, thousands of homeowners' claims from Hurricane Katrina will be paid by the Louisiana Citizens Private Corporation.
- Led provisions requiring certain insurance settlement payments on residential property damage claims to be placed in interest-bearing accounts (SB 31).
- We supported deductions from state income taxes for federal income taxes paid by the amount of presidential disaster area relief credits to be used to amend 2004 tax returns \*(HB 21).
- Led resolution memorializing Congress to authorize the prompt construction of hurricane and tidal water protection for southwest Louisiana (SCR 16).
- Led resolution urging and requesting the office of homeland security and emergency preparedness to develop a rapid communications system for times of disaster or emergency (HR 11).

Once again, Republican leadership has provided the initiative and willingness to pass reform-laden legislation to rid the state of bloated government. Our Delegation is committed to moving Louisiana forward, ensuring that we are ***Rebuilding Louisiana Right!***

###

\* (These are administration bills, but our members offered similar and often lower numbered duplicate bills.)