

What is a Caucus?

- **A congressional member organization of senators, representatives, or both, organized along a single theme or a set of issues**
- **Caucuses can be narrowly focused, or broadly defined, but generally exist to bring together members who share an interest or interests and who wish to raise awareness of the relevant issues among their colleagues**
- **Example 1 -- Specific: The Interstate 69 Mid-Continent Highway Caucus**
"...interested in promoting the development and completion of Interstate 69, a true north-south highway linking Port Huron, Michigan to Texas' border with Mexico." (Co-chairs Tom Delay, R-TX, John Hostettler, R-IN)
- **Example 2 -- Broad: Science and Technology Caucus**
"... an informal group of Senators who are interested in focusing attention on science and technology research and development issues in the 106th Congress." (Chairman Bill Frist, R-TN)

Why support a caucus?

- Share the same interests--e.g. Science and Technology Caucus, Congressional Biotechnology Caucus, House Oceans Caucus, Congressional Natural Hazards Caucus
- Provides a mechanism for formal and informal communication with congressional members and staff outside of the committee structure
- Offers smaller societies opportunity to leverage their visibility and message with larger organizations to a broad group of senators and representatives
- Can provide a mechanism to highlight federal programs/agencies important to your membership
- Can provide forum for advocating specific legislation

What are the key ingredients to a successful caucus?

- A chair or co-chairs that have the enthusiasm and interest in the theme and/or political capital to draw attention and support from their colleagues
- Committed staff member(s) who can actually do the work and pull events and people together
- An outside support organization or organizations that provide the information, speakers, financial support, connection to the federal agencies and a broader network beyond Congress
- **Example: Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus**
 - 280 members in the House, 50 Senators
 - 43 states represented
 - Four legislative initiatives in the 106th Congress
 - Website with dozens of useful links

House Member Organizations

106th Congress Republican Sophomore Class

African Trade and Investment Caucus

Albanian Issues Caucus

Army Caucus

Bicycle Caucus

Bipartisan School Health and Safety Caucus

Coalition (Blue Dogs), The

Congressional Advisory Panel to the National

Campaign to Reduce Teen Pregnancy

Congressional Air Powers Caucus

Congressional Alcohol Fuels Caucus

Congressional Arts Caucus

Congressional Automotive Caucus

Congressional Aviation and Space Caucus

Congressional Bearing Caucus

Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus

Congressional Boating Caucus

Congressional Border Caucus

Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues

Congressional Caucus on Central Europe

Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues

Congressional Caucus on India

Congressional Caucus on Sri Lanka

Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues

Congressional Children's Caucus

Congressional Coalition on Population and Development

Congressional Coastal Caucus

Congressional Electricity Caucus

Congressional Farmland Protection Caucus

Congressional Friends of Animals

Congressional Gaming Caucus

Congressional Human Rights Caucus

Congressional Jobs and Fair Trade Caucus

Congressional Mining Caucus

Congressional Missing and Exploited Children

Congressional Native American Caucus

Congressional Pro-Choice Caucus

Congressional Real Estate Caucus

Congressional Social Security Caucus

Congressional Steel Caucus

Congressional Task Force Against Anti-Semitism

Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease

Congressional Task Force to End the Arab Boycott

Congressional Task Force on Fatherhood Promotion

Congressional Task Force on International HIV/AIDS

Congressional Task Force on Tobacco and Health

Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus

Congressional Ukrainian Caucus

Congressional Urban Caucus

Congressional Working Group on China

Conservative Action Team

Conservative Opportunity Society

Constitutional Caucus

Democratic Budget Group

Democratic Freshman Class

Democratic Task Force on Hunger

Depot Caucus

Diabetes Caucus

Educational Caucus (House)

Forestry 2000 Task Force

House Beef Caucus

House Cancer Awareness Working Group

House Commuter Caucus

House Intercity Passenger Rail Coalition

House Portuguese American Caucus

Sustainable Development Caucus

Tuesday Group

United Nations Working Group

Upper Mississippi River Task Force

Western Caucus

House Pro-Life Caucus

House Reading Caucus

House Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency Caucus

House Republican Israel Caucus

House Trails Caucus

House Working Group on Mental Illness

Impact Aid Coalition

Information Technology Working Group

Insurance Caucus, The

Interstate 69 Mid-Continent Highway Caucus

Law Enforcement Caucus

Long Island Sound Caucus

Mainstream Conservative Alliance

Medical Technology Caucus

Minor League Baseball Caucus

Mississippi River Caucus

National Retail Sales Tax Caucus

New Democrat Coalition

Northeast Agriculture Caucus

Northeast-Midwest Congressional Coalition

Congressional Task Force on Manufacturing

Great Lakes Task Force

Upper Mississippi River Task Force

Northern Border Caucus

Older Americans Caucus

Porkbusters Coalition

Progressive Caucus

Public Pension Reform Caucus

Republican Freshman Class

Republican Housing Opportunity Caucus

Reserve Components Caucus, The

Rural Health Care Coalition

Senate Member Organizations

Bipartisan Senate Task Force on
Fatherhood Promotion

Centrist Coalition

Friends of Portugal

Northeast-Midwest Senate Coalition

Great Lakes Task Force

New England Caucus

Senate Smart Growth Task Force

Senate Task Force on Manufacturing

Science and Technology Caucus

Senate Auto Caucus

Senate Beef Caucus

Senate Children's Caucus

Senate Coastal Coalition

Senate Democratic Task Force on
Social Security

Senate Jewelry Task Force

Senate National Guard Caucus

Senate NATO Observer Group

Senate Renewables and Energy
Efficiency Caucus

Senate Rural Health Caucus

Senate Steel Caucus

Senate Steering Committee

Senate Textile Steering Committee

Senate Tourism Caucus

Senate Transit Caucus

Western States Senate Coalition

Congressional Bicameral Organizations

AdHoc Congressional Committee for Irish Affairs
AdHoc Steering Committee on Telehealth
American Automotive Performance & Motorsports Caucus
California Democratic Congressional Delegation
California Republican Congressional Delegation
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
Congressional Asian Pacific Caucus
Congressional Biotechnology Caucus
Congressional Black Caucus
Congressional Caucus on Hong Kong
Congressional Coalition on Adoption
Congressional Coast Guard Caucus
Congressional Cmte. to Support Writers and Journalists
Congressional Competitiveness Caucus
Congressional Fire Services Caucus, The
Congressional Friends of Human Rights Monitor s
Congressional Heart and Stroke Coalition
Congressional Hispanic Caucus
Congressional Manufactured Housing Caucus
Congressional Naval Mine Warfare Caucus
Congressional Oil and Gas Forum

Congressional Prevention Coalition
Congressional Property Rights Coalition
Congressional Soybean Caucus
Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus
Congressional Task Force on Organ and Tissue Donation
Congressional Western Water Caucus
Education Caucus
Federal Government Service Caucus
Friends of Ireland
House/Senate International Education Study Group
Internet Caucus
Long Island Congressional Delegation
National Security Caucus
New York State Congressional Delegation
Pork Industry Congressional Caucus
Religious Prisoners Congressional Task Force
Renewable Alliance
Senate/House Steering Committee on Retirement Security
Tennessee Valley Authority Congressional Caucus
Vietnam Era Veterans in Congress

Creating a Congressional Natural Hazards Caucus

- Action item from PPP 2000 Forum 7
 - co-sponsored by AGI, AGU, and IRIS
- Goal: Develop wider understanding in Congress that mitigating natural hazards is a public value
- Hazards issues cut across committee jurisdictions
- Coordinate hazard-related events on Capitol Hill
- Need strong partnerships with outside groups

Science & engineering societies

American Red Cross

Insurance industry

Emergency managers

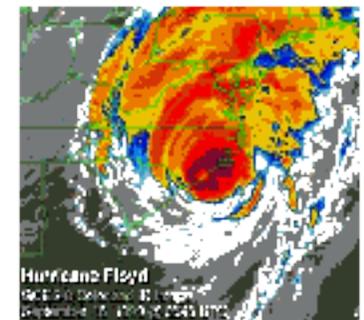
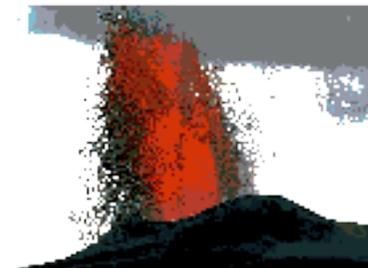
University consortia

Land-use planners

Natural Hazards Caucus Work Group

American Geological Institute
American Geophysical Union
American Iron and Steel Institute
American Meteorological Society
American Red Cross
American Society of Civil Engineers
Applied Technology Council
Association of American State Geologists
Association of Contingency Planners
Association of State Flood Plain Managers
Circum-Pacific Council
Consortium of Organizations for
Strong Motion Observation Systems
Disaster Recovery Business Alliance
Earthquake Engineering Research Institute
Emergency Information Infrastructure Project
Geo-Institute of ASCE
Geological Society of America

Institute for Business & Home Safety
International Association of Emergency Managers
International Code Council
IRIS Consortium
Manufactured Housing Institute
Multihazard Mitigation Council of the
National Institute of Building Sciences
National Emergency Management Association
Reinsurance Association of America
Seismological Society of America
State Farm
Structural Engineering Institute of ASCE
Telcordia
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
USAA
Western Disaster Center
Western States Seismic Policy Council



Congressional Natural Hazards Caucus Timeline

- Idea broached June, 1998
- External support group (Natural Hazards Caucus Work Group) assembled spring/summer 1999
- Senate co-chairs recruited fall 1999
- Caucus launched June 21, 2000

**Congressional Natural Hazards Caucus
Forum on Reducing America's Vulnerability to Disasters
June 21, 2000**



The Honorable James Lee Witt, Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency
Ms. Sue Richter, Senior Vice President, American Red Cross
Mr. Eric Tolbert, North Carolina Director of Emergency Management
Mr. John Jones, Deputy Director, National Weather Service
Mr. Harvey Ryland, President, Institute for Business and Home Safety
Dr. William Hooke, Senior Policy Fellow, American Meteorological Society

Congressional Natural Hazards Caucus

Senator Stevens of Alaska and Senator Edwards of North Carolina, co-chairs

Senator Akaka of Hawaii

Senator Boxer of California

Senator Breaux of Louisiana

Senator Byrd of West Virginia

Senator Cleland of Georgia

Senator Cochran of Mississippi

Senator Conrad of North Dakota

Senator Dorgan of North Dakota

Senator Feinstein of California

Senator Graham of Florida

Senator Inouye of Hawaii

Senator Murkowski of Alaska

Senator Robb of Virginia

Senator Schumer of New York

Senator Torricelli of New Jersey

Senator Wyden of Oregon