

Castle, Staff Participate in Habitat for Humanity Build Day -- August 24, 2007

Wilmington, DE -- Delaware Congressman

Mike Castle and members of his Delaware and Washington, D.C. staff will spent Friday at the Greenbridge site for Habitat for Humanity to work on 8 town homes in Northeast Wilmington. The project broke ground in May of 2007 and will tentatively be completed in February 2008. Rep. Castle and his staff realize the importance of giving back to the community and providing adequate funding for non-profit groups like Habitat for Humanity to ensure these types of projects are possible.

Last month, Rep. Castle's amendment was incorporated into the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act. This amendment gives states and local jurisdictions the flexibility to use trust fund grants to assist low-income homeownership organizations, such as Habitat for Humanity. Rep. Castle believes this change will help non-profit organizations provide housing opportunities for low-income families.

"This amendment would make the funds available for many non-profit affordable homeownership organizations, like Habitat for Humanity. By allowing the trust fund to serve those earning up to 60% of area median income, local jurisdictions will have greater flexibility to support their affordable housing needs. This will allow the trust fund to support both rental housing and homeownership for those who are most in need.

"While it is true that government should always seek to assist those least able to assist themselves, it is also important to help families and individuals achieve a level of self-sufficiency that eliminates their need for ongoing public assistance. Studies have shown the tremendous benefits homeownership has for families. Children who spend all of their childhoods in a home owned by their parents are 19% more likely to obtain a college degree than children whose parents always rented, and every additional year a child lives in a home owned by their families, the probability that they will obtain a college degree increases," Castle said.

Specifically, Rep. Castle's amendment will:

- Gives states and local jurisdictions the flexibility to use trust fund grants to assist low-income homeownership providers, such as Habitat for Humanity;
- Assist families with a permanent path out of government subsidized housing and into financial security; and
- Help families eliminate the need for continuing public assistance.

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