State of Louisiana

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September 15, 2005

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your continued commitment to the Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts in the State of Louisiana. By continuing to work together, we are moving forward expeditiously in restoring and rebuilding this great State.

Hurricane Katrina not only created mass devastation physically, but also economically. As Louisiana's communities and businesses continue to recover, it is imperative that they be allowed to contribute to the stabilization of our State's economy. As such, I request that Louisiana businesses, able to provide relief efforts to the State, be given contracting priority by the federal government. Granting this request will enable the State to jumpstart many businesses in rebuilding efforts.

This approach will play a tremendously important role in Louisiana's economic recovery. Your willingness to direct federal agencies to work with and match our efforts to expedite the restoration and rebuilding of Louisiana is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Babineaux Blanco

Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Governor
State of Louisiana

cc: Secretary Michael Chertoff
Vice Admiral Thad Allen