

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 7, 2006

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to express our concerns regarding your decision to extend the 100% reimbursement period for FEMA Category A & B debris removal. While the extension will allow for continued progress in five of our state's hurricane-ravaged parishes, it fails to include several parishes damaged by Hurricane Rita that continue to bear the heavy cost of storm cleanup.

The destruction incurred by Hurricane Rita deserves equal consideration. Though less debris remains in the nine additional affected parishes in Louisiana, the cost of removing the wreckage constitutes a significant portion of the parish budget for many of these sparsely populated areas.

The debris remaining in Jefferson Parish, one of the regions excluded from the extension's provisions, will cost more than \$12 million to remove. Calcasieu Parish has more than \$11 million of work remaining. In Cameron Parish, nineteen public buildings, including the local hospital and Cameron Elementary School need to be demolished. There are also many wrecked cars, trucks and boats that need to be removed. Local governments simply do not have the funds to handle this financial burden.

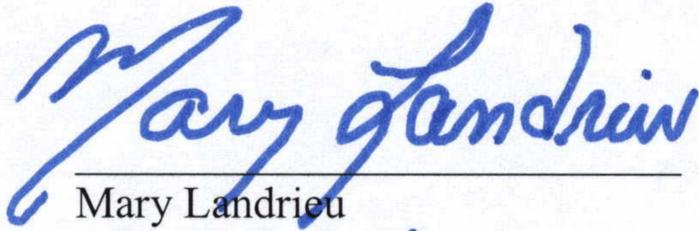
We urge you to be fair in your administering of federal aid and give all the devastated parishes, including those in Southwest Louisiana, equal consideration. We ask that you grant Governor Blanco's request that the period of 100% reimbursement be extended for the nine additional parishes – Iberia, St. Charles, Terrebonne, St. Mary, Calcasieu, Lafourche, Cameron, Vermilion and Jefferson – that are hard at work to complete debris removal.

As we work to rebuild our communities, we appreciate your persistent support of the recovery effort in Louisiana. A decision to extend the federal reimbursement period for all of the parishes affected by last summer's destructive hurricanes

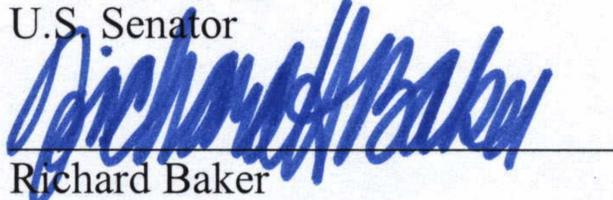
would allow for continued progress and provide hope for Americans who have suffered greatly but feel they have been overlooked.

We look forward to your timely response and thank you for your consideration.

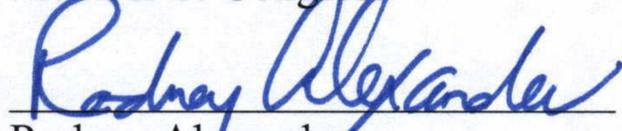
Sincerely,



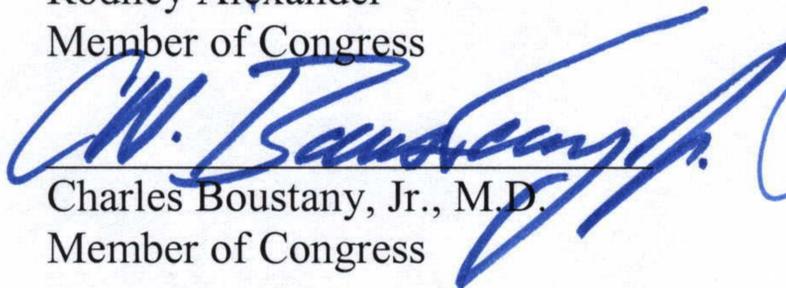
Mary Landrieu
U.S. Senator



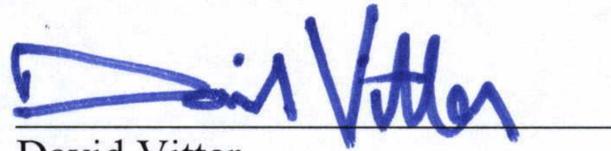
Richard Baker
Member of Congress



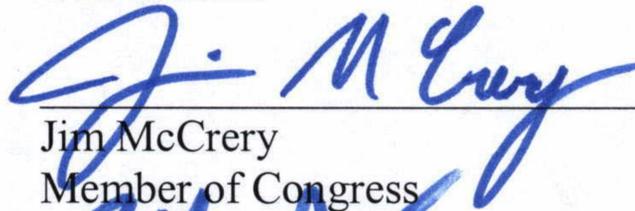
Rodney Alexander
Member of Congress



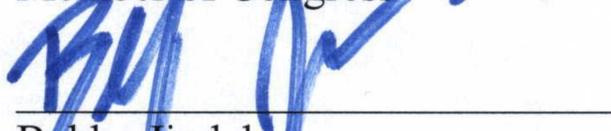
Charles Boustany, Jr., M.D.
Member of Congress



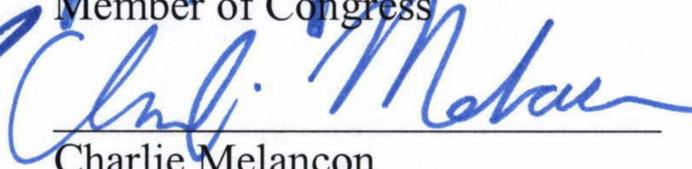
David Vitter
U.S. Senator



Jim McCrery
Member of Congress



Bobby Jindal
Member of Congress



Charlie Melancon
Member of Congress