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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

September 18, 2008

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

Dear Mr. President:

I would like to commend your show of compassion and understanding in granting 100-percent federal cost share to the state of Texas in the wake of Hurricane Ike. The people of Louisiana support our neighbor state and their struggle to recover from such a devastating storm. As we continue to recover from the largest natural disaster in this country's history, Louisianians continue to work hard and rebuild our communities. Sadly, many of those communities suffered from even more wind and flood damage, compounding the obstacles to recovery still lingering three years after the storms of 2005. Again, I thank you for your compassion and understanding of the difficulties facing the Gulf coast in the wake of Ike, and I ask you now to share that compassion with Louisiana.

Hurricanes Gustav and Ike battered Louisiana, severely damaging homes and businesses across the state and leaving millions of our residents without power for weeks. These storms directly impacted many of our communities still working to fully recover from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Although these storms happened over three years ago, communities across south Louisiana are still struggling to get their economies back on track. Reduced local revenues are hindering the post-Katrina and Rita rebuilding progress, and now local governments will have to further stretch their budgets to pay for debris removal and emergency protective measures after Hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

On behalf of my constituents, who have endured four devastating storms in three years, I write in full support of Governor Bobby Jindal's requests for cost-share adjustments to 100-percent federal for Categories "A" and "B" Public Assistance and direct federal assistance for Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. These measures are desperately needed and vital to the recovery of our state.

I look forward to your positive response to Governor Jindal's request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlie Melancon".

CHARLIE MELANCON
Member of Congress