

Date: Fri, 9 Jan 2009 12:14:52 -0500
From: Jeffrey Buchanan <buchanan@rfkmemorial.org>
Subject: Over 130 Groups Urge the Inclusion of Gulf Coast Civic Works in Econ. Recovery Bill
To: "tiffany@nesri.org" <tiffany@nesri.org>

Greetings!

Yesterday afternoon President-Elect Barack Obama, Majority Leader Harry Reid, and Speaker Nancy Pelosi received letters urging the signing of an Executive Order authorizing the Gulf Coast Civic Works Program and the inclusion of \$6.7 billion for Gulf Coast Civic Works projects to rebuild communities, restore the coastal environment and revitalize local economies in the American Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The letters were signed by 130+ diverse community, environmental, faith, human rights, labor, and student organizations across Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Texas and their national allies as part of the Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign.

See the letters sent here:

* Letter to President Elect

Obama<http://www.rfkcenter.org/files/Gulf_Coast_Civic_Works_to_Pres_Elect_Obama.pdf>:

http://www.rfkcenter.org/files/Gulf_Coast_Civic_Works_to_Pres_Elect_Obama_0.pdf

* Letter to Speaker Pelosi:

http://www.rfkcenter.org/files/Gulf_Coast_Civic_Works_to_Speaker_Pelosi.pdf

* Letter to

<http://www.rfkcenter.org/files/Gulf_Coast_Civic_Works_to_Leader_Reid.pdf> Majority Leader Reid:

http://www.rfkcenter.org/files/Gulf_Coast_Civic_Works_to_Leader_Reid.pdf

On behalf all the partners in the Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign I want to extend our sincerest thanks to everyone who has gotten behind this effort.

If any of your colleagues would still like to add their organization's support to the effort, they can still add their name to the letter for future use in upcoming meetings and as we send copies of the letter to other Congressional offices. They can still email

buchanan@rfkmemorial.org<<mailto:buchanan@rfkmemorial.org>>. As we add organizations, you can always find the most up to date version of the letter at www.rfkcenter.org/gccw/<<http://www.rfkcenter.org/gccw/>> at the

links at the top of the page.

We would encourage you to pass copies of these letters along to any of your relevant Congressional and Transition contacts, especially your members of Congress, to encourage them to get behind the effort to include \$6.7 billion in the American Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act for Gulf Coast Civic Works projects. We still have an uphill battle to authorize and fund this program but together victory is still possible. We look forward to engaging you and your organizations more in the coming days to help empower hurricane survivors and their communities through more equitable resident-led recovery through Gulf Coast Civic Works. I would also encourage groups in the Gulf Coast to read the note (see below) from the Equity and Inclusion Campaign about upcoming meetings discussing ready-to-go projects across the Gulf Coast that could be funded by this appropriation. They will be holding a series of three public meetings in Biloxi, Mobile and New Orleans and I would encourage any one interested in supporting this campaign to attend.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out.

Regards,

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NEXT WEEK! Meetings about the Gulf Coast Civic Works Act: January 13, 14, and 15 in Biloxi, Mobile and New Orleans

2009 promises to be a very exciting year for the Gulf Coast. The Equity and Inclusion Campaign and many others have been hard at work pursuing opportunities to pass the provisions of the Gulf Coast Civic Works Act. The Gulf Coast Civic Works Act calls for federal funding for at least 100,000 jobs across the Gulf Coast region. Immediately, there are two opportunities to help authorize and fund this policy respectively through executive order and the upcoming economic recovery package.

The economic recovery package proposes to create jobs through funding infrastructure projects nationwide. Close to \$1 trillion may be invested in

this package. We want to make sure that the Gulf Coast is strongly represented in this endeavor! In order to do that, we must collect information on "ready-to-go" projects, that is infrastructure projects that could stimulate job creation that are ready to be implemented in 90 days if funding were available.

Next week, the Equity and Inclusion Campaign will sponsor three meetings to provide an overview of the Gulf Coast Civic Works Act, current opportunities for this bill, and to collect information on ready-to-go projects from your communities. The dates, times and locations of these meetings are below.

Tuesday, January 13, 1-3 PM: Church of the Redeemer, 610 Water St., Biloxi, MS

Wednesday, January 14, 1-3 PM: Community Foundation of South Alabama, 212 St. Joseph St., Mobile, AL

Thursday, January 15, 9-11 AM: 3500 Canal St., 2nd Floor Conference Room, New Orleans, LA

Please RSVP to Ore Alao at ore@equityandinclusion.org<mailto:ore@equityandinclusion.org> if you are interested in attending these meetings or need more information. Also please spread the word to others who may be interested.

Also, THIS WEEK, the Student Hurricane Network will be making phone calls to E&I Campaign participants to begin the process of collecting information on ready-to-go projects. If you would like to participate in an interview with a volunteer from the Student Hurricane Network, please contact Jonathan Rhodes at jrhodes@kentlaw.edu<mailto:jrhodes@kentlaw.edu> or by phone at 312-209-3241.