

December 3, 2008

President-elect Obama,

On behalf of the undersigned national and local organizations working towards a complete and just Gulf Coast recovery, congratulations on your historic win as the 44th President of the United States.

Thank you for your leadership in the Senate on Gulf Coast recovery issues, and for your commitment to continuing, as President, "to partner with the people of the Gulf Coast to rebuild, stronger than ever." We stand ready to work with you, your Administration and the 111th Congress to ensure an equitable Gulf Coast recovery.

While the scale and breadth of devastation caused in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita has created unprecedented damage and continuing widespread recovery challenges, significant progress has been made, amplifying how rebuilding the Gulf Coast has a direct impact on every state in the nation. We urge you to rebuild the Gulf Coast better and stronger by: ensuring families from the region have an equitable voice in the recovery process; ensuring access to education and job training; encouraging investment in small businesses; creating affordable housing opportunities for those still displaced; streamlining the federal bureaucracy that is currently in place; investing in basic infrastructure such as levees and wetlands; and creating long-term disaster recovery plans for every region in the U.S. Through this plan, we will ensure the security and prosperity of the Gulf Coast region and America.

Again, thank you for your commitment to the people of the Gulf Coast.

Sincerely,

Alabama Appleseed Center for Law & Justice, Inc.
Alabama Arise
Americans for Gulf Coast Recovery
Amnesty International USA
Bay Area Women Coalition
Biloxi Branch NAACP
Boat People SOS
Coan & Lyons
Coastal Women for Change
East Biloxi Hope Coordination Center
Every Child Matters in Louisiana Education Fund
Gaits to Success
Gulf Coast Civic Works Project
Gulf Coast Fair Housing Center
Interfaith Disaster Task Force
Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations
Louisiana Justice Institute

Mississippi Center for Justice
Mississippi Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities
Mississippi Office of the Service Corps of Retired Executives
Mobile Center for Fair Housing, Inc.
Ms. Foundation for Women
National AIDS Housing Coalition
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Alliance of Vietnamese American Service Agencies
National Economic and Social Rights Initiative
National Fair Housing Alliance
National Housing Law Project
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness
Neighborhood Housing Services of New Orleans
Oxfam America
PolicyLink
The Pro Bono Project
Sierra Club, International, Mississippi Chapter
South Bay Communities Alliance
Steps Coalition
Technical Assistance Collaborative Inc
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
UNITED Hearts Community Action Agency, Inc.
UNITY of Greater New Orleans in partnership with Common Ground Institute
Zion Travelers Cooperative Center, Inc

For more information, please contact Diane Yentel, Senior Domestic Policy Advisor,
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