

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

As representatives of diverse Gulf Coast communities and their national supporters, we thank you for your support of rebuilding the Gulf Coast. During the campaign season, as hurricanes Ike and Gustav struck, Americans were reawakened to the unmet needs Gulf Coast communities still face in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita more than three years later. In visits to the Gulf Coast, you have articulated a desire to partner with hurricane survivors as they rebuild their communities and revitalize the region's economy.

Whether by inaction or injustice, we still have failed to protect the rights and wellbeing of Gulf Coast survivors, immigrants and their families, especially the children, the elderly, the poor, the sick, and the vulnerable. The collapse of local institutions, homelessness, internal displacement, poverty, abusive labor practices and environmental degradation mean communities continue to suffer and struggle unduly.

This crisis demands a powerful response. Despite the millions of hours volunteered by selfless Americans and the heroic efforts of residents, Gulf Coast communities still lack a robust and responsive federal partner in their recovery. As Speaker of the United States House of Representative we hope that you will ensure that \$6.7 billion for Gulf Coast Civic Works projects is included in your upcoming economic recovery plan.

The Gulf Coast Civic Works Program fits well within your plan to create 3 million jobs. The program would directly partner with communities to create 100,000 "green" jobs and training opportunities to tackle local recovery challenges and revitalize the region's economy. Working with local officials and community organizations it would; rebuild and repair vital public infrastructure including schools, police and fire stations, hospitals, parks, roads, flood protection, and restore eroding natural flood protection like marshes and wetlands. This comprehensive approach will train a new generation of skilled workers, encourage green building techniques, promote local businesses and help communities build resilience to future disasters, securing vital national security interests along America's Gulf Coast.

This policy has bipartisan support from 27 Members of Congress including Representatives Rodney Alexander, Sheila Jackson-Lee, Charlie Melancon, Gene Taylor, and Bennie Thompson, over 100 supporting organizations, dozens of national faith leaders, as well as the Louisiana Republican Party, the New Orleans City Council, and the Lafourche and Terrebonne, LA Parish Councils. The Gulf Coast Civic Works Program includes oversight and community participation in federal investment and serves as an innovative model for tackling our national need for infrastructure and green jobs.

It is our sincere hope and prayer that you will support Gulf Coast Civic Works Program by including \$6.7 billion for this program in your economic recovery legislation.

Signed,

232-HELP/Louisiana 211
ACORN
AFL-CIO Investment Trust Program, Gulf Coast Revitalization Program
Alabama Appleseed Center for Law & Justice, Inc.
Alabama Arise
All Congregations Together
Appleseed
Amnesty International USA
Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America
Bay Area Women Coalition, Inc
Bayou Interfaith Shared Community Organizing
Bayou Grace Community Services
Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Southeast Louisiana
Biloxi Branch NAACP
BIT Bayou Interfaith Together
BlueStone Ministries
CDC58:12, Inc.
Center for Ethical Living and Social Justice Renewal
Christian Justice Action (United Church of Christ)
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
Church of the Brethren Witness/Washington Office
Churches Supporting Churches
Clergy Strategic Alliances
Coastal Women for Change
Color of Change
Common Cause
Common Ground Health Clinic
Community Center of St Bernard
Community of Christ Outreach Program
COPE Congregations Organizing People for Equality
Deep South Center for Environmental Justice at Dillard University
Desire Street Ministries
Disciples Justice Action Network (Disciples of Christ)
ENPHRONT, INC
Episcopal Appalachian Ministries
The Episcopal Church
Episcopal Network for Economic Justice
Equal Partners in Faith
Equity and Inclusion Campaign
Evangelicals for Human Rights
Every Child Matters Education Fund Louisiana
Finding Our Folks
First Pilgrims Baptist Church JEDC HDM (New Orleans, LA)
FUEL Faith United for Empowerment and Leadership
Gert Town Revival Initiative
Global Green USA
Green For All
Gulf Coast Civic Works Project

Gulf Coast Fair Housing Center
Gulf Coast Southeast Asian Resource Center, Inc.
Gulf Restoration Network
Gulf South Allied Funders
Hands On New Orleans
Hope Community Development Agency
Hope Haven of Hancock County Inc.
In This Together, Inc.
Institute for Southern Studies
Institute of Women & Ethnic Studies
Interfaith Worker Justice
Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
Judy Drive Civic Association, Meraux, LA
Keys To Abundant Life Community Outreach Agency, Inc
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
Louisiana Appleseed
Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations
Louisiana Community Reinvestment Coalition
Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation
Louisiana Environmental Action Network
Louisiana Housing Alliance
Lower Mississippi Riverkeeper
May Day New Orleans
Mennonite Central Committee U.S., Washington Office
MICAH Project
Middle Collegiate Church (New York, NY)
Minnesota Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild
Minnesota Tenants Union
Minnesota-New Orleans Solidarity Committee
MIRA! Mississippi Immigrants Rights Alliance
Mississippi Center for Justice
Mississippi Coast Interfaith Disaster Task Force
Mississippi Poultry Workers for Equality and Respect
MQVN Community Development Corporation
Ms. Foundation for Women
National Alliances of Vietnamese American Service Agencies
National Council of Churches
National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference
National Economic and Social Rights Initiative
National Employment Law Project
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty
Neighborhood Housing Services of New Orleans, Inc.
Neighborhood Partnership Network
NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
New Orleans Neighborhood Development Collaborative
North Gulfport Community Land Trust
Northside Neighbors for Justice
Orleans Recovery Foundation (ORF)
Ouachita Riverkeeper

OXFAM America
 Pax Christi USA: National Catholic Peace Movement
 People for Community Recovery
 PICO Louisiana
 PICO National Network
 PolicyLink
 Praxis Project
 Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Washington Office
 Presbytery of So. Louisiana Recovery
 Prince Garrett Ministries (McLain, MS)
 Protestant Justice Action
 Providence Community Housing
 Puentes New Orleans, Inc.
 REJOICE, Inc. Resource Center for Families
 Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights
 Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference
 Shelter Resources, Inc. d.b.a. Belle Reve New Orleans
 Sierra Club, Mississippi Chapter
 Sisters of Charity of New York, Office of Justice and Peace
 Soria City Civic Organization (South Gulfport, MS)
 South Bay Communities Alliance
 Steps Coalition
 Survivors Village New Orleans
 Technical Assistance Collaborative
 Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (t.e.j.a.s.)
 Turkey Creek Community Initiatives (TCCI)
 Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
 Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
 United Christian Community Association
 United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
 United Hearts Community Action Agency, Inc.
 United Houma Nation
 UNITY of Greater New Orleans with Common Ground Institute
 Volunteers of America
 Women Donors Network
 YOUTHAnasia Foundation Inc.
 Youth Build Americorps Katrina Rebuilding Project
 Zion Travelers Cooperative Center, Inc

Attachments:

- Overview: Gulf Coast Civic Works Program

For More Information about the Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign contact:

Darren Fenwick, ACORN (202) 547-2500 legrep5@acorn.org	Jainey Bavishi, E&I Campaign (225) 772-2714 jainey@equityandinclusion.org	Diane Yentel, OXFAM America (202) 496-1304 dyentel@oxfamamerica.org	Jeffrey Buchanan, RFK Center (202) 463-7575 x241 buchanan@rfkmemorial.org
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Gulf Coast Civic Works Program: "Green" Jobs to Rebuild America's Gulf Coast Communities

The Gulf Coast Civic Works Program would fund "green" resident-led recovery projects, allowing local organizations to respond to the unmet needs of communities devastated by the hurricanes of 2005 and 2008. This project would enable the Office of Gulf Coast Recovery and Rebuilding to partner directly with local communities to plan, oversee and administer recovery projects, providing communities with tools to revitalize the region economically while building resilience against the impact of future disasters. A minimum of 100,000 jobs and training opportunities on projects ranging from improving infrastructure to restoring the coastal environment would be created for local and displaced workers, empowering Gulf Coast residents to create stronger, safer, and more equitable communities.

The Gulf Coast Civic Works Program would:

Rebuild Vital Public Infrastructure and Restore the Environment by:

- Rebuilding and repairing schools, police and fire stations, hospitals, parks, roads, water and sewer systems, housing, and cultural centers;
- Building equitable flood protection through restoring barrier islands, marshes and wetlands;
- Enhancing energy efficiency and conservation to better protect vulnerable populations from the effects of climate change and;
- Serving as a model for engaging residents in disaster recovery and sustainable economic development.

Create Good "Green" Jobs and Provide Job Training by:

- Creating 100,000 fair wage jobs and training opportunities for Gulf Coast residents;
- Encouraging contractors to provide opportunities for apprenticeship and on-the-job training, preparing workers and businesses for the growing "green jobs" industry;
- Encouraging cutting edge green building techniques and technologies to minimize carbon emissions and energy costs and;
- Creating a Civic Conservation Corps to train a new generation of workers to restore the coastline.

Spur Equitable and Sustainable Community Development by:

- Engaging community leaders and local officials to determine projects based on community needs, through innovative local advisory councils;
- Strengthening the workforce by providing good jobs with fair wages and strong worker protections, much needed skills training and additional funding for community colleges and training facilities and;
- Creating contracting opportunities for local businesses.

Require Accountability and Community Oversight by:

- Working with the Office of Gulf Coast Recovery and Rebuilding to provide oversight and transparency, give logistical and administrative assistance, and allocate funding to the local communities through a resident-driven grant-making process.
- Involving communities in overseeing contractors to avoid waste and fraud.

For More Information about the Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign contact:

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