



Hurricane Katrina Relief Effort

September 2005

Dear AmChams,

In the wake of the devastation left by Hurricane Katrina to America's Gulf Coast, I wanted to take the opportunity to brief you on the ongoing private sector relief efforts and the role of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The U.S. Chamber's affiliate, the Center for Corporate Citizenship (CCC) is leading our relief effort and is working closely with the White House, the Department of Homeland Security, local chambers of commerce and our members to bring relief to the people and businesses of the affected areas.

This is what we are up against: over 750,000 people have been displaced in the region and will need short, medium, and long term housing and approximately 1/3 of Louisiana's economy and 1/3 of Mississippi's economy have been devastated. It is critical that the displaced people have what they need and that businesses get back on their feet as soon as possible. Please keep in mind that the aid effort has four components: 1) rescue; 2) relief; 3) recovery and reconstruction; and 4) mitigation (future prevention). Recovery, reconstruction and mitigation are all longer-term efforts that will demand our attention after Katrina has left the media headlines.

In order to assist the relief agencies and provide an information resource for our members who want to contribute, the CCC has set up a website that will make it easy for companies and chambers to see what products are most needed. This can be accessed through www.uschamber.com/ccc or by visiting www.aidmatrix.org/uschamber. Companies can make product or cash donations which can match needs on the ground as reported to local and state chambers. We are also in the process of setting up a job aggregation site where companies can post jobs which can be matched with those in need of jobs, also available through the CCC Katrina resource web services.

If you, or any of your member companies, are interested in contributing to the relief effort, please visit the CCC's Katrina resource web services. You can also contact ccc@uschamber.com with any comments or questions. The CCC will follow up with the Department of Homeland Security and other disaster aid organizations as appropriate.

In addition, the Disaster Relief Network of the World Economic Forum is helping coordinate international donations. They may be contacted by going to: www.drn.global.org or via e-mail at Katrina@drnglobal.org.

Other useful contacts include:

- Department of Homeland Security Disaster relief site: www.nerr.gov
- Mississippi Emergency Management Call Center: 1-601-940-2877
- Mississippi Donation Hotline: 1-866-230-8903 or www.governorbarbour.com
- Chamber of Greater Baton Rouge: www.brchamber.gov
- FEMA Guidance: 1-800-440-6728
- Louisiana Association of Business and Industry: (www.labi.org)

In closing, I want to thank the many corporate, chamber, and international donations that have assisted the relief efforts thus far. As always, should you have any questions or issues, please do not hesitate to contact me or the CCC.

With my highest regards,

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