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October 19, 2005

Cutting Through Red-Tape to Rebuild the Gulf Region

Dear Colleague,

The rebuilding of highways in Los Angeles after the 1994 Northridge earthquake provides valuable lessons for the post-Katrina/Rita reconstruction effort. In response to the earthquake, Governor Pete Wilson used emergency powers to suspend targeted regulations and statutes, which significantly cut highway reconstruction time from two years to two months.

The work of rebuilding the Gulf region will require a concerted public and private effort. It is incumbent upon Congress and state and local governments to reduce the regulatory burden and allow communities to decide for themselves how best to rebuild.

Several regulations have already been waived to allow for quick clean-up in the region. This is a good start that we need to build upon. There are over 144,000 pages of federal regulations alone and those who want to rebuild will be met at every step by numerous rules with which they must comply. This will not only slow down recovery, but may deter investment in some areas.

A comprehensive review to identify regulations and statutes that impede the redevelopment of devastated areas is necessary to expedite recovery while ensuring taxpayer funds are used effectively.

To do just that, I am introducing the Gulf Deregulation Act. This bill will establish an emergency review commission for the areas adversely impacted by Hurricane Katrina and Rita, drawn from federal, state and local agencies, and the private sector, to identify regulations at all levels of government that impede recovery. The Commission will then propose temporary suspension of these rules. Note, Congress will retain the final authority over the suspension of particular regulations.

The Gulf Deregulation Act specifically:

- Focuses on eliminating red-tape by creating a commission of experts to analyze the regulatory and statutory landscape.

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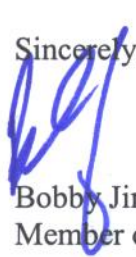
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- Identifies and qualifies road blocks to recovery.
- Recommends temporary suspension to expedite the rebuilding efforts.

Enacting this legislation will go a long way to reduce development costs and speed up the time it takes to rebuild the region. If you have questions or would like to become a cosponsor, please contact Chris Gillott at my office at x53015.

Sincerely,



Bobby Jindal
Member of Congress