

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 30, 2005

President George Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear President Bush:

Thank you for suspending Davis-Bacon prevailing wage rules on September 8, 2005 in the region affected by Hurricane Katrina. This suspension will buy more rebuilding for the same amount of money and provide semi-skilled workers the opportunity to enter the job market to help rebuild their communities.


We write to ask that you extend this suspension to regions affected by Hurricane Rita. Prevailing wage rates are determined by a formula that supposedly averages previous union and non-union wages in a region. However, better-organized union contractors are more likely to get their wage data to the government. We believe this process produces an inaccurate rate, thereby skewing the market.

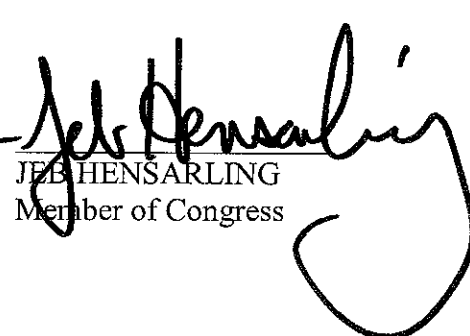
Additionally, removing Davis-Bacon will stretch taxpayer dollars farther by buying more construction for the same amount of funding. The cost of doing construction can be greatly reduced through increased competition, removal of bureaucratic red tape, and the use of the efficient and cost-effective work rules being used today by the construction industry.

The federal government is setting high wages that keep people poor. The states' minimum wages are established to make sure every worker receives dignified pay; additional wage rates should be determined by the supply and demand of the market.

Sincerely,

  
JEFF FLAKE  
Member of Congress

  
MIKE PENCE  
Member of Congress

  
JEB HENSARLING  
Member of Congress