

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 28, 2005

The Honorable George W. Bush
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Mr. President,

Our grief goes out to the hundreds of thousands of victims of recent hurricane disasters. The magnitude of loss is unimaginable. We request your assistance once again.

Throughout the 2005 hurricane season, the Davis-Bacon Act of 1931 has received much attention and consideration. By offering Presidents the ability to suspend wage requirements and introduce payment of locally prevailing minimum wages, this law plays a valuable role in offsetting the enormous costs of disaster reconstruction.

Since the inception of the Davis-Bacon Act, several Presidents have wisely exercised their power under Section 6 to suspend the Act for the greater good of the Nation and localities during emergencies. Of the four times the Act has been suspended, (1934, 1971, 1992, and 2005), two suspensions have resulted from hurricanes. In 1992, President George H. W. Bush suspended the act in the wake of Hurricane Andrew and his leadership helped accelerate reconstruction in Florida and throughout the Gulf Coast.

Recently, you temporarily suspended the Act in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, a catastrophic disaster which decimated Gulf Coast communities with upwards of \$40 to \$60 billion in damages. Americans throughout this area greatly benefited from your decision.

Mr. President, we are requesting for you to also suspend the Davis-Bacon for 60 days on behalf of the people in the State of Florida. Hurricane Wilma, the 21st storm of the season, made landfall October 24, 2005 at 6:00 A.M. as a category 3 Storm with winds over 125 miles per hour. Heavy rain, widespread flooding, and damaging winds pounded the Florida coast for 6 hours, leaving 3.2 million homes and businesses without power. The early cost of recovery from Hurricane Wilma has been estimated to be between \$9 billion to \$12 billion.

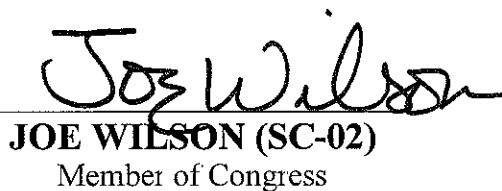
Over the past decade, Florida has endured countless hurricanes and suffered tremendous economic damage. Many businesses and communities that were impacted during previous storms have still yet to fully recover. As you know, Florida was struck by four hurricanes in 2004 (a state record), resulting in \$22.9 billion in insured damages, (Charley \$7.5 billion, Ivan \$7.1 billion, Frances \$4.6 billion, and Jeanne \$3.7 billion). That is why a temporary suspension of the Davis-Bacon Act will create jobs and ensure that taxpayer dollars go further in recovery efforts.

By issuing a temporary suspension of the Davis-Bacon Act, your strong leadership will make a tremendous difference in the lives of thousands of Floridians.

Sincerely,



JEFF MILLER (FL-01)
Member of Congress



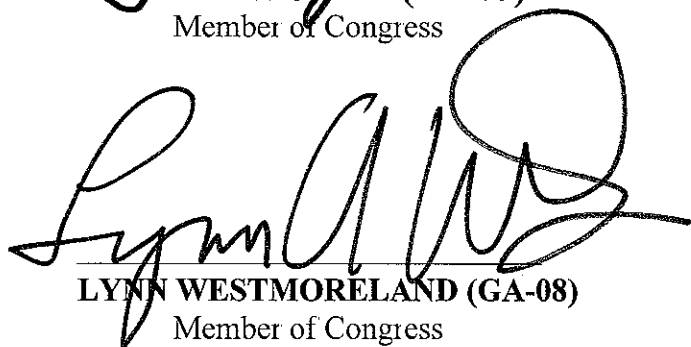
JOE WILSON (SC-02)
Member of Congress



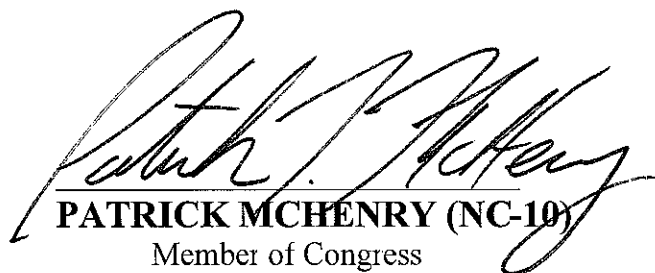
J.D. HAYWORTH (AZ-05)
Member of Congress



KATHERINE HARRIS (FL-13)
Member of Congress



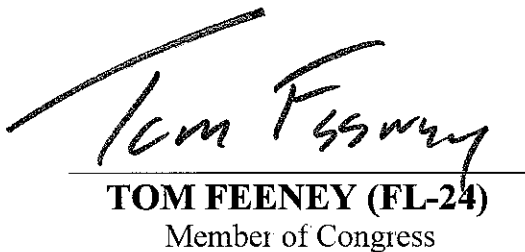
LYNN WESTMORELAND (GA-08)
Member of Congress



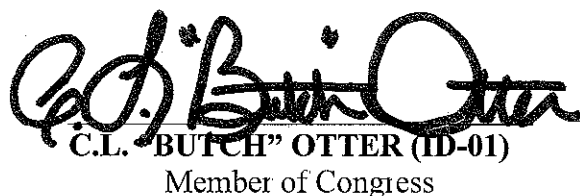
PATRICK MCHENRY (NC-10)
Member of Congress



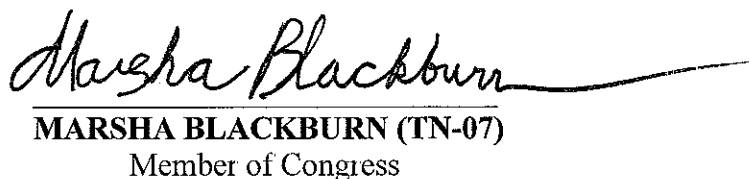
TOM COLE (OK-04)
Member of Congress



TOM FEENEY (FL-24)
Member of Congress



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER (ID-01)
Member of Congress



MARSHA BLACKBURN (TN-07)
Member of Congress



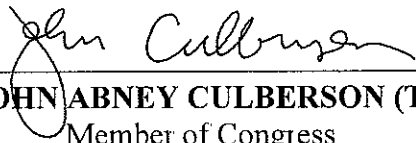
PETE SESSIONS (TX-32)
Member of Congress



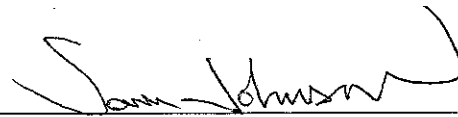
RIC KELLER (FL-08)
Member of Congress



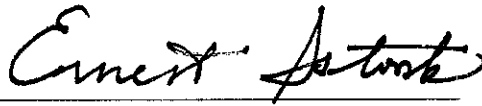
ROSCOE BARTLETT (MD-06)
Member of Congress



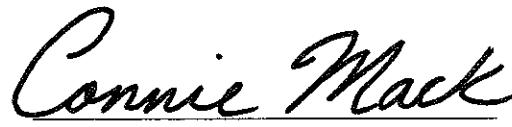
JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON (TX-07)
Member of Congress



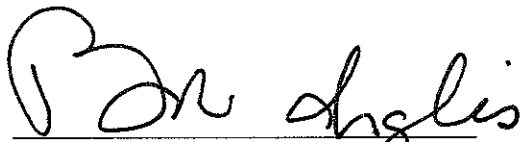
SAM JOHNSON (TX-03)
Member of Congress



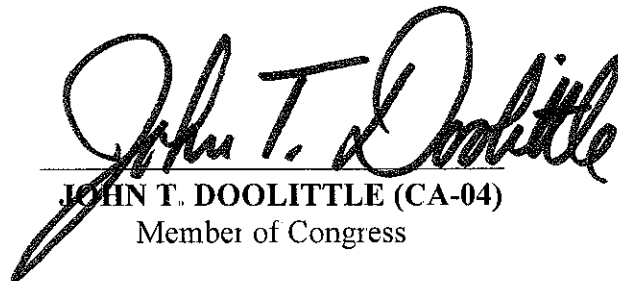
ERNEST J. ISTOOK, Jr. (OK-05)
Member of Congress



CONNIE MACK (FL-14)
Member of Congress



BOB INGLIS (SC-04)
Member of Congress



JOHN T. DOOLITTLE (CA-04)
Member of Congress



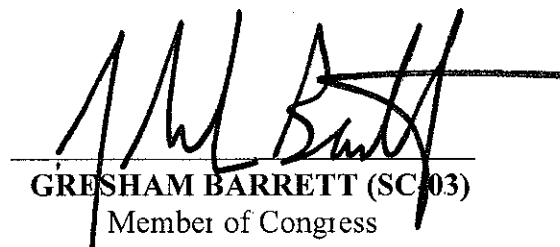
JOHN SULLIVAN (OK-01)
Member of Congress



BARBARA CUBIN (WY)
Member of Congress



STEVE CHABOT (OH-01)
Member of Congress




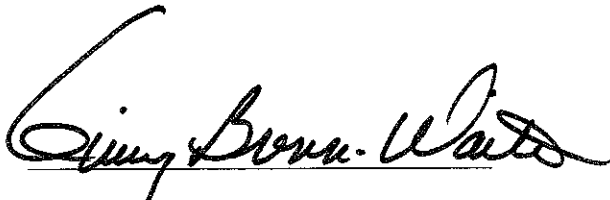
GRESHAM BARRETT (SC-03)
Member of Congress


JEFF FLAKE (AZ-06)
Member of Congress


STEVE KING (IA-05)
Member of Congress


Tom Price (GA-06)
Member of Congress


ANDER CRENSHAW
Member of Congress


Member of Congress

Member of Congress

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