



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
18TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

June 8, 2010

Mr. Alex Sanchez
President & CEO
Florida Bankers Association
1001 Thomasville Road, Suite 201
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Dear Mr. Sanchez:

On behalf of my constituents in the Florida Keys, I am asking the Florida Bankers Association to support a mortgage abatement program by area banks due to the dire financial situation brought on by the major natural disaster now facing this area.

I have been contacted by many small business owners in the Florida Keys who have asked me to support this important step as they have already been harmed by numerous cancellations of reservations due to the ongoing oil spill. This insidious and unpredictable threat has already severely damaged their leading industry – tourism, in the middle of what was already a prolonged recession.

As I understand it, such a mortgage abatement program would extend small business mortgages for the life of the loan and permit payments to be suspended during the next few critical months until the end of December when the winter tourist season will bring them some relief.

As local bankers have in the past provided mortgage abatement during past natural disasters, I hope they will also help out during this one which could be just as damaging to a key part of Florida's economy. I sincerely hope that you will consider this proposal as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress

IRL: joc

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