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Environment and Public Works

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Special Committee on Aging

United States Senate

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April 26, 2007

BY HAND

IMMEDIATE ATTENTION REQUESTED

The Honorable Robert Byrd
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
311 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Byrd and Ranking Member Cochran:

The current version of H.R. 1591, the Emergency Supplemental for the War on Terror and Other Purposes, is destined for a presidential veto. As the Appropriations Committee begins to rework the Supplemental Appropriations Bill, I write to request that Louisiana's hurricane recovery needs included in the Senate version of the supplemental remain in the final version we ultimately send to the president.

I cannot underscore the importance of this funding, and I thank both you for your tremendous leadership in crafting the Senate Supplemental Appropriations Bill. The people of Louisiana deeply appreciate it.

A top priority of mine that I hope to see included in the new bill is \$1.45 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers to address the current budget shortfalls in hurricane, coastal and flood protection work in south Louisiana. The Senate bill also included language to give the Corps greater flexibility in doing its emergency post-Katrina work in southeast Louisiana, and included language to expedite a study for a concrete plan to close the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet, known as the hurricane highway.

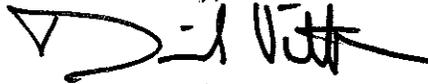
I am also grateful for the vital funding to help the Greater New Orleans justice system – police, district attorneys, and courts – to fight a recent rise in violent crimes. In addition, the current bill maintained provisions to forgive Community Disaster Loans (CDL) and waived the local 10% match requirement on FEMA assistance, and I ask that these also remain

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All of this funding represents critical needs as Louisiana continues the positive work of fully recovering from the 2005 hurricanes. They are true emergency items and are appropriate to address in the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill.

Again, I thank both of you for your hard work to include these needs, and I am committed to assisting in any way possible as Congress reworks the supplemental spending bill

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Vitter". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "D" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Vitter
U.S. Senator