Dear Mr. President and Members of Congress,

HONORARY CHAIRS

Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Governor Elect Bobby Jindal
Senator Mary Landrieu
Senator David Vitter
Representative Richard H. Baker
Representative James O. McCrery
Representative William Jefferson
Representative Rodney Alexander
Representative Charles W. Boustany
Representative Charlie Melancon

We, the people of Louisiana and our many friends, want to express our gratitude to you this Thanksgiving for continuing to make the Gulf Coast's recovery from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita a national priority.

Through the initial investments you made in our recovery last year, the additional funds for housing, coastal restoration and hurricane protection recently appropriated by Congress, and the Administration's pledge to support funding to bring our federal levee systems up to a level to protect against a 100-year storm, you have shown compassion and generosity for the people of Louisiana, and we are profoundly grateful.

Thanks to you, tens of thousands of homes and affordable rental units are being rebuilt. Thanks to you, children are returning to better schools, and our small businesses are recovering. Thanks to you, hundreds of miles of wetlands, levees and flood walls are being repaired and restored. And thanks to you, hope and optimism are returning to Louisiana.

While the past two years have been full of challenges, the progress we've made would not have been possible without the support of the American people and our representatives in Congress and the White House. We thank you for all that you have done and all that you continue to do, as your ongoing support is critical to the future of Louisiana and the Gulf Coast and all of our residents.

Because of your partnership, we know we have not been forgotten. Because of your ongoing commitment, we are rebuilding our lives and our homes and making our communities safer, stronger and smarter than before.

LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY