

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1804

March 2, 2011

The Honorable Gary Locke
Secretary of the Department of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Locke,

As you are aware, in recent years, the State of Louisiana has been hit hard by a number of disasters—both economic and natural—and we are now challenged by an equally damaging, looming disaster with the potential closing of the Avondale Shipyard.

In connection with Northrop Grumman's spinoff of Avondale Shipyard, which is set to occur next month, approximately 4,000 union skilled trade workers in Louisiana will lose their jobs. The long-term economic impact of the loss of these jobs goes far beyond the immediate impact on these workers' families. It will undoubtedly extend deep into the Gulf Coast communities that have yet to recover from the devastation caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the recent economic downturn, and last year's BP oil spill.

However, the full extent of the impact of these looming job losses has yet to be analyzed. This information is vital in order to assess any federal, state, and local resources necessary to repair the economic damage that is certain to occur following the spinoff and to begin the process of bringing new job opportunities to the families and communities.

Consequently, we ask that you direct the Department of Commerce to assess the economic impact of the forthcoming Avondale Shipyard closure, by measuring the following items:

- The economic impact on small businesses that do business with Avondale.
- The impact of unemployed workers' reduced spending on the local Gulf Coast economy.
- The increased cost of local social services, including counseling, food stamps, and other welfare services.
- Lost tax revenue on the local, state and federal governments, as well as local school systems: (personal and corporate income and property taxes, utility taxes, sales tax, social security, unemployment insurance, taxable medical/retirement plans, workman's comp).
- The effect on the property values in the area.

We ask that the Department of Commerce complete an expedited assessment of these factors and work with any other federal agency as needed to expedite this request.

Sincerely,



Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senator



Cedric Richmond
United States Representative

Signature of [Name]

Signature of [Name]

(Printed Name)

As witnesseth my hand and seal this [Date] day of [Month] 20[Year].

- The undersigned hereby certifies that the information furnished herein is true and correct to the best of his knowledge and belief.
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Witness my hand and seal this [Date] day of [Month] 20[Year].

Notary Public for the State of [State]

My commission expires on [Date]

Notary Public for the State of [State]

Notary Public for the State of [State]

Notary Public for the State of [State]