

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1804

July 21, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Daniel Inouye  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Vice Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leaders Reid and McConnell, and Chairman Inouye and Vice Chairman Cochran:

I write to you to share my deep concerns about two rescissions in the latest House Amendment to H.R. 4899, the supplemental spending bill for FY2010. These ill-advised cuts will impact Gulf Coast residents who are struggling to rebuild and recover from four hurricanes in the last five years as well as the largest environmental disaster in this nation's history.

Section 4174 would rescind \$400 million from the 2008 appropriation for Louisiana's Road Home program, which supports housing recovery for homeowners, renters, and small landlords affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The Road Home Program is the single largest housing program in our nation's history. Louisiana and the Department of Housing and Urban Development have been working aggressively to create a program to help homeowners who haven't been able to fully rebuild including those who used Chinese drywall, fell victim to contractor fraud, or were left with insufficient funds after the Small Business Administration required repayment of loans, and remaining funds are critical to assist these individuals.

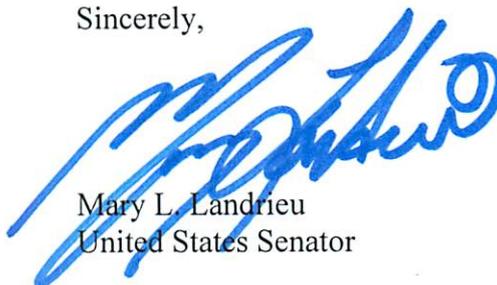
Section 4170 rescinds \$112 million from the emergency appropriation of \$6.5 billion in Community Development Block Grant funds for 2008 disasters, including Hurricanes Gustav and Ike and the Midwest Floods. This would impact fifteen states (AR, CA, FL, GA, IN, IA, IL, KY, LA, MO, MS, PR, TN, TX and WI). This rescission eliminates funds from the Disaster Relief Enhancement Fund, which was established to encourage states to "design forward thinking" disaster recovery and mitigation projects, including land-use plans that reduce risk, floodplain mapping, buyout programs for those in floodplains, building code enforcement, and individual mitigation measures.

Senators Reid, McConnell, Inouye, and Cochran  
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These proposed rescissions would have a deep and lasting detrimental impact to Louisiana and other states that have been impacted by recent disasters. I request your assistance in ensuring that the final version of the bill does not include cuts to the vital recovery, mitigation, and planning funds for this vulnerable region.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,



Mary L. Landrieu  
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable John A. Boehner, Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable David R. Obey, Chairman  
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Jerry Lewis, Ranking Member  
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations

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