

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 15, 2005

The Honorable Michael Chertoff
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you know, the State of Arkansas has received an estimated 75,000 evacuees displaced by the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Per capita, Arkansas has welcomed more evacuees into its communities and homes than any other state not directly affected by the hurricane.

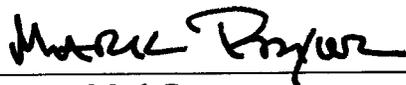
On September 7, 2005, the State of Arkansas applied for a \$30 million National Emergency Grant (NEG) from the U.S. Department of Labor to assist 15,000 dislocated workers from the Gulf South Region who are currently in Arkansas. Unfortunately, the Department of Labor has now informed us that funds for the NEG are depleted. While it is certainly understandable that the Department of Labor first approved grants through the NEG to Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, and that the State of Texas has received a \$75 million award, Arkansas also deserves assistance to help the dislocated workers it has welcomed to find employment. Therefore, we request that you transfer \$30 million of the \$51.8 billion recently appropriated by Congress for the recovery in the Gulf Coast Region to the Department of Labor's NEG Program specifically for the State of Arkansas.

We appreciate your prompt attention to our concerns and look forward to working with you to continue to assist the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Sincerely,



Senator Blanche L. Lincoln



Senator Mark Pryor



Congressman Marion Berry



Congressman Vic Snyder



Congressman John Boozman



Congressman Mike Ross