

committee members, Republican Party of New Mexico; entertainers Brooks and Dunn; radio show host Tony Lynn; Col. Muammar Abu Minyar al-Qadhafi, leader of Libya;

President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan; and Prime Minister Ayad Allawi of the Iraqi Interim Government.

Statement on Facilitation of Cooperative Conservation *August 26, 2004*

Americans have a long tradition of conservation and stewardship of our Nation's lands and other natural resources. It was this ethic that led 30 years ago to passage of landmark legislation that continues to help improve America's water and air quality. Over the last three decades, we have made remarkable progress, working together to meet our conservation goals and improve the quality of our air and water.

Today I have directed the Federal agencies that oversee environmental and natural resource policies and programs to promote

cooperative conservation in full partnership with States, local governments, tribes, and individuals. Local involvement is critical to ensuring successful, effective, and long-lasting conservation results. The Executive order on cooperative conservation that I have signed today will help us continue to make sure that decisions in Washington, DC, are well-informed by those closest to the land and their communities.

NOTE: The Executive order is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks on Hurricane Charley in Miami, Florida *August 27, 2004*

I have just been briefed by Mike Brown here at FEMA about the progress that the Federal Government, in working with the State government, is making toward helping these poor people who got hurt by Hurricane Charley and Tropical Storm Bonnie.

When I came down here a while ago, I said that—I promised that there would be a full-scale Federal focus on helping the State of Florida. And I tasked Mike Brown to make sure that that happened, and he has done a great job. I appreciate you serving the people of this State.

And Jeb has done a fine job too. He is—he understands that a Governor must lead, and he had led. And he has helped focus resources on helping these people that need help.

There is further work to be done here in Florida. Chairman Bill Young is with us. We have been discussing the need for a supplemental fund, supplemental funding request of the Congress for \$2 billion to help continue to rebuild Florida. The chairman and I had a good discussion on this issue. He knows Florida well. He knows the west coast of Florida really well. And as importantly, he knows how the Congress works well. And he said as soon as they get back, they'll take this matter up. This money will help for cleanup and housing and other services, small-business loans that are provided through FEMA.

As well, we're concerned about the citrus growers here in Florida, the nursery men and women in the State of Florida. We

think there is ample money in the agricultural budgets to handle the damage done by Charley to the citrus industry and the nursery industry and the vegetable industry. If not, we'll work with the chairman to provide money at the Federal level to help this State rebuild.

The main thing that's happened here in Florida is the people have responded. I want to thank the Red Cross for being at the table here. The Red Cross is always first on the scene to provide compassion and love. Senator Miller used to be a Governor, and he spent time at disasters. And as Governor of Texas I have too, and Jeb obviously has, and as President I've been there too. And always, the Red Cross led the army of compassion at the sites. And the people of Florida have responded really well, provided compassion and decency and care.

I also want to thank the power companies from the Southeast that have responded. It's amazing how much electricity has been restored. We're down to, here in this State, less than 20,000 people—I

think it is, isn't it, Mike—that are looking for electricity. Heck, the last time I was here, it was 1.7 million people that didn't have electricity. And a lot of the reason why the electricity has been restored is, not only have the Florida power companies responded, but the power companies from around the Southeast have responded.

What I'm saying is, is that these disasters cause a lot of harm and grief, but they also bring out the best in our citizenry. And there's a lot of compassion for the people whose lives have been turned upside down. And I want to thank those here in Florida and around this part of the world for providing that help.

Again, Jeb, good job, and same to you, Mike. Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:36 p.m. at Fire Station Number Two. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; and Senator Zell Miller of Georgia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks in Miami

August 27, 2004

The President. Thank you all for coming. *Vamos a ganar en Noviembre.* Thanks for coming. I like a line of work where you get introduced by your wife. I love her dearly. She's a great wife, a wonderful mother, and she is a terrific First Lady. I'm going to give you some reasons why I think you need to put me back in, but perhaps the most important one of all is so that Laura is the First Lady for 4 more years.

Listen, Laura and I are thrilled to be here with our friend Zell Miller from Georgia. He is—I've asked him to give a big speech next week. He's the keynote speaker for our convention. I asked him because

he puts his country above partisan politics. I asked him because he's a man of—he's got a great heart, and he cares about people from all walks of life. I picked the right guy to give a big speech for us next Wednesday night.

I'm sorry my brother is not here, *mi hermanito*. He's working. He's doing what the people of Florida expect him to do, and that is to do his job. I just saw him, and we were talking about the damage done by Hurricane Charley and the response by the Federal Government and the State government, which has been swift and sure. We're helping the people that need help on the west coast and throughout the