

and the other members of my team to assess our response and ensure that we have what we need in place.

As I've told Governors and mayors from across the affected area, if they need something, I want to know about it. We're going to make sure that we respond as quickly and effectively as possible. And we're going to keep it up as long as hurricane season continues.

Finally, while we're not out of the woods yet, I want to thank everybody at the Federal, State, and local levels who have worked so hard to respond to this storm. This has been an exemplary effort of how good government at every level should be responsive to people's needs, work to keep them safe, and protect and promote the Nation's prosperity.

I want to thank scientists who provide the information necessary for Governors and mayors to make sound decisions, disaster response experts who made sure we were as prepared as possible, to National Guard members and first-responders who risked their lives to ensure their fellow citizens' safety—all ordinary Americans who love their country and volunteered to do their part.

Above all, the past few days have been a shining example of how Americans open our homes and our hearts to those in need and pull together in tough times to help our fellow citizens prepare for and respond to, as well as recover from, extraordinary challenges, whether natural disasters or economic difficulties.

That's what makes the United States of America a strong and resilient nation, a strong and resilient people. And I want to thank all who have been involved very much.

Now I'd like to ask Secretary Napolitano and Administrator Fugate to say a few words.

Janet.

[At this point, Secretary of Homeland Security Janet A. Napolitano and Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator W. Craig Fugate made brief remarks. The President then continued his remarks as follows.]

Okay. Thank you very much, everybody. Craig and Janet will continue to keep everybody posted throughout the week. As we have already said, there are a lot of communities that are still being affected. We are particularly concerned about flooding because the continuing rains can end up having an impact well beyond the immediate center of the storm.

And so we're going to continue to monitor that carefully. Assessments are already being done in North Carolina and Virginia. There are still search and rescue teams that are operating throughout the region. And we will continue to keep the American people posted throughout our efforts not only with respect to response, but also with respect to recovery.

So thanks very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:02 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Remarks on the Nomination of Alan B. Krueger To Be Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers

August 29, 2011

Hurricane Irene

The President. Good morning, everybody. This morning we're continuing to deal with the impact and the aftermath of Hurricane Irene. As I said yesterday, we're going to make sure folks have all the support they need as they begin to assess and repair the damage left by the storm. And that's going to continue in the days ahead.

It's going to take time to recover from a storm of this magnitude. The effects are still being felt across much of the country, including in New England and States like Vermont where there's been an enormous amount of flooding. So our response continues. But I'm going to make sure that FEMA and other agencies are doing everything in their power to help people on the ground.

*Nomination for Council of Economic Advisers
Chairman*

Now, even as we deal with this crisis of the moment, our great ongoing challenge as a nation remains how to get this economy growing faster. Our challenge is to create a climate where more businesses can post job listings, where folks can find good work that relieves the financial burden they're feeling, where families can regain a sense of economic security in their lives.

That's our urgent mission. And that's what I'm fighting for every single day. That's why today I'm very pleased to nominate Alan Krueger to chair the Council of Economic Advisers. Come on down here, Al.

Alan brings a wealth of experience to the job. He's one of the Nation's leading economists. For more than two decades, he's studied and developed economic policy, both inside and outside of government. In the first 2 years of this administration, as we were dealing with the effects of a complex and fast-moving financial crisis—a crisis that threatened a second Great Depression—Alan's counsel as Chief Economist at the Treasury Department proved invaluable.

So I am very pleased to appoint Alan, and I look forward to working with him. As I told him, it's going to be tough to fill the shoes of Austan Goolsbee, who's been a great friend and adviser who I've relied on for years. But I have nothing but confidence in Alan as he takes on this important role as one of the leaders of my economic team.

I rely on the Council of Economic Advisers to provide unvarnished analysis and recommendations, not based on politics, not based

on narrow interests, but based on the best evidence, based on what's going to do the most good for the most people in this country. And that's more important than ever right now. We need folks in Washington to make decisions based on what's best for the country, not what's best for any political party or special interest. That's how we'll get through this period of economic uncertainty, and that's the only way that we'll be able to do what's necessary to grow the economy.

So it's that spirit that I'm going to be calling upon in the coming days. Next week, I will be laying out a series of steps that Congress can take immediately to put more money in the pockets of working families and middle class families, to make it easier for small businesses to hire people, to put construction crews to work rebuilding our Nation's roads and railways and airports, and all the other measures that can help to grow this economy.

These are bipartisan ideas that ought to be the kind of proposals that everybody can get behind, no matter what your political affiliation might be. So my hope and expectation is that we can put country before party and get something done for the American people.

That's what I'll be fighting for. And we've got to have a good team to do it. So, Alan, I appreciate your willingness to take on this assignment, and I'm looking forward to working with you once again.

Mr. Krueger. Thank you very much.

The President. Thank you so much.

Thank you, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:01 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

*Statement on the Sixth Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina
August 29, 2011*

Six years ago today, Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast, upending families and ravaging communities, and no one will forget the tragic events of those days. But what's required of us is more than remembrance. What's required of us is our continued efforts

to make sure that New Orleans and the Gulf Coast fully recover and to make sure that our response to such disasters is the best it can possibly be.

Over the past several years, we've seen what Americans are capable of when tested. We've