

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, as I stand here today, it would be pretty easy to solve this problem. Senator BUNNING needs to stand down. He just needs to stand down. He made his point. He argues that we should pay for emergency funding. I voted for pay-go, but we do have a clause that says if it is a real emergency, we do not have to pay for it.

The reason that is important is if we do what Senator BUNNING wants and we extend this jobless help and we extend the highway trust fund and, on the other hand, we cut the economic recovery moneys which are all obligated and on which work is about to start, we are not doing anything for the country.

Let's do this right. Many of us who are standing here saw terrible deficit and debt problems during the Clinton years. You know what we did? We fixed it. We had room for emergencies. But we fixed it by going to pay-go. When there were emergencies, we stepped back.

I think it is fair to note that Senator BUNNING is very agitated about the fact that we would extend jobless benefits without cutting spending in job creation. Yet when it was time for him to vote for tax breaks for the wealthiest people who earn over \$1 million, he could care less that it was put on Uncle Sam's credit card. When it was time to pay for the war in Iraq, oh, put it on the credit card of the country. But all of a sudden, it is help to our families who need it so desperately and we are going to have to cut other programs that are providing jobs. It does not make sense. It is not fair, and it is not consistent.

I renew my request that I have made twice now to Senator BUNNING. I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD my letters to him.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, February 26, 2010.

Hon. JIM BUNNING,

U.S. Senator, Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR BUNNING: On behalf of the 201,000 Californians who will see their unemployment insurance benefits expire in the month of March unless we act to renew them, I ask that you stand down immediately.

As you know, if you do not relent, these benefits will expire on Sunday. Unemployment insurance is a lifeline to the long-term unemployed whose families have been hit very hard by this recession.

Thank you for your immediate attention.

Sincerely,

BARBARA BOXER.

U.S. SENATE, COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS,

Washington, DC, March 1, 2010.

Sen. JIM BUNNING,

Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR BUNNING: I want to make sure you are aware that as a result of your objections to a short-term extension of unemployment insurance, COBRA, and other help for people who have lost their jobs, not

only are 1 million people—including 201,000 Californians—losing their unemployment benefits but the Department of Transportation has now furloughed without pay nearly 2,000 workers.

This is completely unacceptable. It is hurting people in your state, in my state and all across the country.

As a consequence of the furloughs, federal inspectors will be removed from critical construction projects across the nation, and work is already shutting down. I am attaching the Department of Transportation's list of some of the affected projects, which includes critical construction work in 17 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

We can't have an economic recovery if people can't make ends meet and if transportation projects grind to a halt. I am writing to you as Chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee to ask you to stop this gamesmanship and remove your objection to the extension of the transportation authorization and unemployment benefits.

Sincerely,

BARBARA BOXER.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I wrote to him on February 26 "On behalf of the 201,000 Californians who will see their unemployment insurance benefits expire" and telling him that the benefits will expire on Sunday, which was 2 days ago; that unemployment insurance is a lifeline to the long-term unemployed whose families have been hit hard by this recession. I thanked him for his immediate attention, and I hope he did, in fact, read this letter. And I hope he read my letter of March 1.

I wrote to him as chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee. I wanted to make sure he knew that he also objected to reauthorizing the highway trust fund expenditures, and that means the Department of Transportation is starting to lay off people. They laid off inspectors, furloughed them. They will go back to work when we fix this mess. But what a mess.

Do you know what it is to shut down construction jobs midway? By the way, these are private sector employers, private sector workers who are doing this work. It is unacceptable. I told him, "It is hurting people in your State, in my State and all across the country." These Federal inspectors will be removed from critical projects across the Nation. Work is shutting down. I attached the Department of Transportation's list of the affected projects. I said:

We can't have an economic recovery if people can't make ends meet and if transportation projects grind to a halt.

We all know the housing sector is so weak. That construction is not going well. We need to construct the infrastructure of this Nation. These are not make-work projects. These are projects fixing bridges and highways and making sure our roads are safe. I asked him to stop his gamesmanship and remove his objection to the extension of the transportation authorization and the unemployment benefits.

As I said today, I add to that the extension of the funding for our physi-

cians who are relying on us not to allow a 21-percent cut for Medicare to go into place. The fact that we do not have a lot of leadership down here says to me they are working on this now. It says to me they are reaching out to Senator BUNNING and my Republican colleagues to see if they will stand down.

I want to say I hope he does. These are real people. These are real people who are suffering. There is no need for them to suffer. We are not going to turn our backs on the long-term jobless. We are not going to turn our backs at all. This is just political maneuvering which is making life very difficult for people whose lives have been pretty much shattered if they are long term unemployed and looking for work and trying desperately to get it.

Hopefully, Senator BUNNING will back down, and my Republican friends will agree that we can move forward. If they want a vote on Senator BUNNING's plan to cut economic recovery funds that have already been obligated to put people to work to pay for an emergency, I am willing to take that vote any day of the week.

I hope to be back later and have some comments. I hope those comments are: Good, we got past this crisis. But at the moment, it is 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and we are not through it yet. I am hopeful that maybe later we will get through this and extend these vital programs to the people who need them.

I am going to close. I thank the people who have worked so hard with me on getting this highway reauthorization done. It is Republicans and Democrats. It is the Chamber of Commerce. It is AASHTO. It is the general contractors. It is the construction unions. This is an amazing team of people. It is the AAA. It is the car riders associations. It is everyone—Republicans, Democrats, Independents. They want an end to these games. I hope today we will see the end. If we do not, then we are going to have a long, long night ahead of us to make the point that it is wrong for one Senator to stop our people, our American people from getting the help they deserve, from getting the jobs they deserve to have in the highway fund and the help they need while they are looking for work.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. KAUFMAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXTENSION OF BENEFITS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, before my friend from California leaves

the floor, I first thank the Senator from California for her leadership in bringing together a bipartisan effort to create jobs and for coming to the floor to speak about one of the important elements that is being held up right now by Senator BUNNING and other Republicans who have come to the floor in support of his efforts.

I thank Senator BOXER for her leadership and her ability to bring people together to get things done and to speak to the fact that this is about jobs and we have a sense of urgency about what needs to happen going forward.

I wish to speak to that sense of urgency and speak first about what is happening for real people. Then I want to talk a little bit about the process as well, how could we be here, because people are looking and saying: How can one person or a group of people or the minority continue to hold up our ability to solve problems? That is a very good point that we need to talk about.

First, I want to share some comments from a distraught woman from Grand Rapids who called my office a little bit ago in tears because her unemployment benefits had expired. This has been her only source of income for over a year now. She has about 2 months left in savings before she loses her home. First she loses her job, and now she is about to lose her home. My guess is she has been struggling with health care as well.

She kept repeating: I was a productive member of society, but now I have nothing. She spoke about doing various temporary jobs since losing her full-time job as an administrative assistant back in 2007, having 18 years of work experience and she still has not qualified for a new job. Her search continues. She was pleading for the Senate to pass an unemployment extension before she loses her home.

In Michigan and all across this country, this is not a game. This is real. People are in a position today where they do not know if they are going to be able to keep their home, if they are going to be able to put food on the table at the end of the week, next week or be able to pay their rent or be able to keep the heat on. With the small amount of money that comes in from unemployment—an average about \$300 a week—that right now is the difference between whether people are on the street, in the cold with their families, or whether they have a roof over their head. That is the reality of what is happening for people in this country—not people who are lazy, not people who do not want to work but people who have found themselves caught in this huge economic tsunami that has hit our country.

We have over 15 million people currently receiving unemployment benefits who want to work, who are looking for work, who, on average, find there are six people looking for work for every job available. Just watch what happens when you announce there are 50 jobs or 100 jobs or maybe even 2 jobs

available in a community. People line up around the block because they want to work. People are going back to school to gain different kinds of skills to fit in the new economy. They are doing everything they can, piecing it together with part-time work, two jobs, three jobs, trying to hold it together.

We also have people who are one paycheck away from being in the very same situation, who are holding their breath, who are holding back on the spending they would normally do that would generate economic activity in the economy because they do not know what is going to happen.

This is critical to families; people today who have done nothing but play by the rules, such as the woman who called my office, want to know when is their government going to be there for them.

Somehow, as has been said before, the Senator from Kentucky did not manage to make it to the floor when 1 percent of the public, the wealthiest in America, were getting huge tax cuts. He didn't manage to make it to the floor when we were talking about Wall Street and bailouts. But somehow he can come to the floor and hold up the ability for people who are unemployed to get some temporary help and put the entire weight of the Federal deficit on the backs of people who are out of work, who lost their breadwinner in their home. That is stunning to me, absolutely stunning to me. Whose side are we on here? What is this about if it is not to make sure that when disaster hits, we are willing to step up on behalf of American families and support them and do something about it?

Our colleague has said we should not add to the deficit; while other things have certainly added to the deficit, we should make sure this is paid for.

We are the party that balanced the budget in the nineties. We do not need a lecture from people about solving deficits. We are the ones who created the balanced budget and surpluses that then went right out the window in the last 8 years under the previous administration. We do not need lectures on how to deal with deficits. But we also know when there is a disaster, whether it is a flood, a hurricane, or another kind of disaster, and the reality is that people in this country have been hit by a disaster. So it is appropriate to treat this as a disaster with disaster funding. I don't know what a disaster is if the more than 15 million people we know about right now, not counting the other 10 million or 15 million people who aren't being counted, is not a disaster.

I wish to talk for a moment about the process because we find ourselves in a situation where we have seen an abuse of the democratic process over and over here in the Senate by our minority party colleagues.

We have been brought to a point where now one person, although supported by others on the Republican

side, has come to the floor and is objecting and putting us in a situation where we are going to have to either shut down the work of the Senate for a week to vote to override or to do something else. This has put us in a situation where people are being hurt because of partisan games.

The leader has come to the floor and said: If you have a concern, you should offer an amendment. We should debate that amendment. You can have an up-or-down vote on that amendment. That is the democratic process. And then we will vote.

Up until this point, the Senator has said no because he doesn't know if he will win that vote. Well, we don't know at any given time when we offer an amendment whether we will win. When you run for an election, you don't know if you will win. This is a democratic process.

So I challenge our colleagues to stop blocking democracy, to stop blocking the democratic process and just vote. Just vote. Majority vote. That is what the Founders created, a process for the majority to govern, with spirited debate—spirited debate—and up-or-down votes. Don't block democracy. That is exactly what is happening right now. It is time to vote. It is time to get things done. It is time to show the American people that we get what is going on in their lives. Let's just vote.

What has happened in the last couple of years? We have seen a process that in 1919 and 1920 was used two times in 2 years—two times in 2 years. Even in the first Senate, it was used zero times. We have seen a process that in the last number of years has gotten to a point where in the last Congress the process of blocking and obstructing—the filibuster—was used 139 times by our Republican colleagues, and that was the most ever. Look at that. It doubled any other time in the history of the country. Well, they are going to double it again. As of today, we have a situation where we have seen the party of no filibuster 118 times, and we are barely through 1 year of a 2-year cycle. So we are on the road to see it doubled and create a time of amazing historic obstruction we have never seen before. This is an example today of what happens when that process, which is a legitimate process, is abused—people get hurt.

So I would call on colleagues to stop blocking democracy and to simply come and debate and vote. Let's decide and move on so that we can get things done for the American people.

The underlying bill in front of us is a bill that will extend unemployment benefits for 1 year, and that is the right thing to do. It will extend help for health care, for COBRA, for 1 year, and that is the right thing to do. It will extend help for States to pay for health care. It will extend it beyond the next 6 months of when we put help in place under the Recovery Act. It will make sure our doctors can continue to get paid a fair reimbursement to serve our

seniors under Medicare. And it will allow us to keep jobs going and to extend important investment tax credits.

In reality, we have a lot of work to do here in the Senate. We need to dispose of this immediate situation of helping people. We need to make sure we put in place the short-term help on unemployment and health care and other provisions that have been talked about and then move quickly to the broader jobs bill because we know, in the end, everyone who is holding their breath right now about what we are going to do on unemployment is not saying to us: Gee, I hope you extend unemployment for years and years. Gee, I really want to live on \$300 a week. They want us to focus on jobs, affording them the integrity of work, the ability to bring home a paycheck, to be a breadwinner so they can care for their family, and all of the dignity that comes with that work.

So we need to get on about the business of focusing on jobs, but the first thing we need to do is to make sure we understand what is happening to people across our country. They are panicked about the obstruction that is going on here in the Senate. There are 135,000 people in Michigan who will lose their unemployment help by the end of March if we do not take action. That is an economic disaster if I have ever heard of one.

It is time to act. It is time to stop blocking the democratic process. It is time to vote and to get things done and let people know that we are on their side, that we understand what is going on in their lives, and that we are going to be here and work hard and get things done for them.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I stand before the Senate today to call for the passage of the Temporary Extension Act of 2010. This legislation would extend a number of very important benefits that families across the Nation rely on to get them through difficult economic times.

This bill includes an extension of unemployment benefits for millions of out-of-work families, including hundreds of thousands in the Midwest, an extension of COBRA benefits for those who lost their health care along with their jobs, and a number of important tax credits for businesses and individuals which are vital as we seek to generate economic activity.

I cannot tell you how many times I heard about this when I went around our State and spoke with small businesses. However, there is one program—I know our colleagues have fo-

cused on how important it is to get this program done, how important it is that one person should not be allowed to hold up something that is so worthy and expected and necessary for the American people—but there is one thing that has not been discussed as much, and that is the National Flood Insurance Program that is also included in this bill.

Homeowners insurance covers damage from various sources, but it does not cover damage that results from flooding. Sadly, in too many cases unknowing Americans learn of this hole in their policy only after it is too late. In recognition of this major gap in coverage, Congress created the National Flood Insurance Program in 1968 to give home and business owners the chance to financially protect themselves, their property, and their families. For over 40 years, this program has helped communities recover after devastating natural disasters. I have been in some of these disasters: The flood in Rushford, MN. No one will forget Grand Forks. No one will forget how close we got last year with Fargo, and the Minnesota city of Moorhead; the floods in Iowa in the last 2 years. These are real disasters.

All regions of America are susceptible to flooding, whether it is torrential seasonal floods, rains, thunderstorms, or even the recent tsunami across the Pacific Ocean that struck after the tragic earthquake in Chile. We cannot escape the powerful forces of nature.

Flooding by its nature is unpredictable. Families and businesses need to know if the worst happens they will have the tools needed to help them get back on their feet. In my State, the Flood Insurance Program is vital to those who live in any area susceptible to flooding. However, at this time of year our attention is focused on families living across the Red River Basin in northwestern Minnesota.

Last spring, above-average rainfall compounded by an untimely melting of snow resulted in, as we all saw on TV, devastating floods along the Red River which hit the highest level ever recorded. I was there with the people. It was an extraordinary effort, as you watched grandmothers taking the frozen sandbags and putting them in place. You saw people who were up for 48 hours to protect their homes. As the waters receded, President Obama declared 15 counties as disaster areas, and communities throughout the region began the lengthy cleanup process and solemnly faced the devastation. This is not the first time the Red River has overflowed its banks, and it certainly will not be the last.

We are working at this moment on a long-term plan so this doesn't happen in the future, but for now we are again facing a threat in the Red River. This winter's heavy snowpack has led to a gloomy outlook for flooding this spring, which does not bode well for these communities. Volunteers in

Moorhead, MN, have already begun filling sandbags in preparation for this year's floods. Although the Red River runs between Moorhead, MN, and Fargo, ND, when it comes to this calamity, the area is one community. In a testament to the people of northwest Minnesota and eastern North Dakota, the river does not divide us; it unites us.

As honorable, tireless, and commendable these efforts are, they cannot do it alone, and they need and deserve our help. Facing the heartbreaking loss of a home, the National Flood Insurance Program at least provides participants the peace of mind that their livelihoods will not be equally destroyed, and they will have the financial resources to start over.

Sadly, the actions of one Member of this body have not only put in jeopardy this program but endanger all the communities and residents along the Red River, those who have not yet purchased their flood insurance—and believe me, there are still some people because they are calling our office.

Cherie, a resident of Moorhead, MN, contacted my office trying to understand how this legislative paralysis caused by one Member of this body will impact her neighbors and her community. As of Monday, this program has come to a halt. Certain policy renewals may move forward, but those seeking a new policy to protect their homes may be left out in the cold.

Because of this body's inability—because of one person's decision—to extend the authorization of this vital program, residents in the Red River Valley do not know if they are going to be able to get flood insurance by the time the waters begin to rise in late March and early April. The intricacy of this program complicates matters more. New policyholders must wait 30 days before they take effect. There is no time to spare for Minnesotans seeking to protect their families from the upcoming floods. They may come at the end of the month. They may come at the beginning of April. We don't know.

There are other parts of this country where flooding comes later, and those people will be interested in purchasing policies. They don't know if their business is going to be able to survive another flood season or whether they will lose everything with no second chance to start over.

It is important to note that the National Flood Insurance Program saves taxpayer dollars. When communities implement flood plain management requirements and residents purchase flood insurance, the Federal Emergency Management Agency estimates that flood damage is reduced by \$1 billion each year. In fact, FEMA estimates that the Federal Government saves between \$3 and \$4 for every \$1 spent on flood mitigation in advance of a problem.

The Flood Insurance Program also provides building standards which,

when followed, leads to 80 percent less damage annually than those structures not built according to these standards.

But this is not the only program being threatened by this stalemate. Because of Senator BUNNING's objections yesterday, roughly 2,000 Department of Transportation staff were furloughed, largely at the Federal Highway Administration, which is responsible for highway, bridge, and road construction projects across our Nation.

I know a little bit about those projects because I live six blocks from that bridge that fell down in the middle of the Mississippi River in the middle of a beautiful summer day—an eight-lane highway down the middle of the Mississippi River. We know how important these highway projects are to rebuilding safely, and we can just have one Member of the Senate who decides to stop these types of projects in their tracks?

Highway projects are financed by State departments of transportation, and Federal funds reimburse the States for work on their projects. With furloughed staffs, these reimbursements will come to a halt which will force State departments of transportation across the Nation to halt work. The reimbursements amount to \$190 million per day.

In addition, Senator BUNNING's actions will prevent the departments of transportation from making vital grant awards. I am a member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, which deals with roads and bridges, and I found the stopping of these programs particularly troubling. Ironically, on Wednesday, the committee will hold a hearing on the importance of transportation investment in the national economy.

If we are going to move forward to the next century's economy, we need to have the next century's transportation system. I respectfully request the Senator from Kentucky allow an up-or-down vote on his amendment; that he stop stalling; that he let us vote so the people of the Red River Valley who have not yet purchased flood insurance can buy that insurance; the people who want their bridges built and their highways built can go ahead and have those things done; the people waiting on their unemployment benefits can have that unemployment compensation. I request he stop stalling so the Senate can resume work and extend these programs for the stop-gap emergency basis on which so many programs and so many Americans depend.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LOW-INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT

Ms. LANDRIEU. I rise to speak for a few minutes while we are in a quorum call and trying to decide how we are going to proceed on this bill, to speak about a very important amendment that, hopefully, at some time as this debate moves forward, could be considered.

It is an extremely important amendment, not just to the people of Louisiana but to the people of Mississippi and Alabama as well, three States that were very hard hit by a natural disaster 4½ years ago, when Katrina, one of the largest hurricanes ever recorded, slammed into actually the gulf coast, hit the State of Mississippi directly and then parts of Louisiana.

Then, 3 weeks later, we were hit by another category 4 storm, Hurricane Rita. We are 4½ years into that disaster and catastrophe, and the gulf coast is still struggling to recover.

People are very familiar with the scenes they are seeing in Haiti, and now, unfortunately, we are getting very familiar with the scenes we are seeing in Chile. So it was not that long ago that we were seeing similar scenes along the gulf coast, not as desperate a situation as Haiti. We are not clear about how the situation in Chile is playing out.

But we can all remember the terrible videos and slides of destruction. Having represented that State now for all this time, let me tell you, our work is still going on. That is what brings me to the floor today. In the underlying bill, there are some big issues that have gotten a lot of coverage: unemployment, COBRA, et cetera. These are all very important. There are also some smaller pieces of this bill that are very important, the extension of some tax credits that help to restore tax credits in the region; a 1-year extension. There is a 1-year extension for low-income housing, a tax credit for the whole country.

But what is not in the bill, what is missing, is the piece I wish to talk about and ask my colleagues to consider adding to this bill when we get to a position where some amendments might be considered.

This amendment that I offer is not just offered by myself but offered by Senator COCHRAN and Senator WICKER and Senator VITTER. It was a bipartisan amendment and something the four of us feel very strongly about. In addition to the support it has from the four of us, it also, happily, has the support of the administration and the Secretary of HUD.

At this time, I would ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a very strong letter in support from Secretary Geithner and Secretary Donovan.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Hon. MARY L. LANDRIEU,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR LANDRIEU: Thank you for your letter of February 25, 2010, regarding the extension of the Gulf Coast Opportunity Zone (GO Zone) Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) placed-in-service date. Please be assured that the Administration understands the critical need for the extension of the GO Zone tax credits, and also the negative impact that failing to extend the credits would have on New Orleans and other communities impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita as they continue recovery efforts. You should also be assured that the Administration supports an extension of 2 years to December 31, 2012, of the GO Zone placed-in-service date and is committed to working with Congress to see that the extension is enacted as soon as possible.

As you mentioned in your letter, the economic activity spurred by the GO Zone credits has played an important stimulative role in the rebuilding of the Gulf Coast. These tax credits have fostered development in devastated areas and have enabled the return of people who love their communities and who are the drivers of local economies throughout the Gulf Coast. GO Zone projects have created jobs and stimulated the economic recovery in these areas. In New Orleans, specifically, the tax credits have played a central role in leveraging the financing needed to complete the rebuilding of the Big Four public housing developments: St. Bernard, C.J. Peete, Lafitte, and B.W. Cooper. The revitalized developments have not only spurred activity surrounding construction and will restore essential affordable housing, but have also encouraged the establishment of new businesses and improved civic life around these developments.

Since the beginning of the Administration, President Obama, Vice President Biden, Dr. Jill Biden, 13 other members of the Cabinet, and numerous agency heads, assistant secretaries, and other senior level administration officials have visited New Orleans and the wider Katrina- and Rita-impacted area to see firsthand the scale of the recovery challenges that remain. Our respective agencies have made significant investments of staff and funding to support the recovery efforts. Many of these programs continue to provide meaningful resources to disaster survivors and the communities being rebuilt. Through these visits, we have come to recognize the dire impact that failing to extend this tax credit would have on Gulf Coast communities and individual families, many of whom were the hardest hit by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the recent recession. Not extending the GO Zone placed-in-service date would result in a major setback for the recovery, and would impact public housing residents, business, and communities. It would be unconscionable to let the work that has created so much progress, and so much hope, go unfulfilled.

We will continue to urge members of Congress to extend the GO Zone placed-in-service date and stand firmly behind such an extension. We are confident that with your help we will see the extension signed into law, and with it, continued economic activity and community revitalization in the Katrina affected Gulf Coast.

Sincerely,

TIMOTHY F. GEITHNER,
Secretary of the Treasury.

SHAUN DONOVAN,
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Ms. LANDRIEU. They have written a very lengthy letter saying why the

MARCH 2, 2010.