

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 19, 2008

The Honorable Barney Frank  
Chairman  
Committee on Financial Services  
2129 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Obey  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Capitol H218  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frank and Chairman Obey

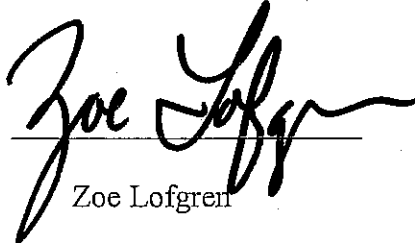
As the House begins to develop a second stimulus package to revitalize our nation's economy, we write to bring your attention to a recent report, "*How to Spend \$350 Billion in a First Year of Stimulus and Recovery.*"

The Center for American Progress report calls on Congress to appropriate \$1 billion to create a minimum of 15,000 Civic Works jobs for local and displaced people to rebuild Gulf Coast infrastructure and environment. The \$1 billion for the Gulf Coast Civic Works Project would be provided to the Office of Gulf Coast Federal Recovery Coordination to administer ready-to-go projects that will address the overwhelming unmet needs of the individuals, families, and communities devastated by hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, and Ike. In the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, we introduced H.R. 4048, the Gulf Coast Civic Works Project which would set up a very similar program to create jobs and opportunities for residents of the Gulf Coast to participate in the rebuilding of their communities.

Support from the federal government to stimulate the economy is imperative to ensure the Gulf Coast region is not left behind. Oxfam America has reported that there are two fundamental indicators of the stalled recovery of the Gulf Coast region: lack of housing and jobs. According to Oxfam America, more than 30,000 low-income homeowners are ineligible for rebuilding assistance and tens of thousands more have not received the level of assistance needed to rebuild their homes. At the same time, the workers needed to rebuild the Gulf Coast region cannot find adequate employment. Recovery is possible, but only when there are secure jobs with decent wages available; allowing families to return to their lives and create the workforce needed to rebuild the Gulf Coast region.

A second stimulus package that includes the \$1 billion for the Gulf Coast Civic Works Project called for by the Center for American Progress will help fulfill the plan that President-elect Obama outlined during his campaign, to "partner with the great people of the Gulf Coast to rebuild now, stronger than ever." We urge you to consider funding for this worthy proposal.

Sincerely,



Zoe Lofgren



Charlie Melancon

cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House