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STATE OF ALABAMA

August 29, 2005

The Honorable George W. Bush
The White House
Washington, DCThrough: Mary Lynne Miller
Acting Regional Director
FEMA Region IV
3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5206 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I request that you declare an expedited major disaster for the State of Alabama as a result of Hurricane Katrina beginning August 28, 2005 and continuing. I am requesting that Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke, Mobile, Sumter, and Washington Counties be declared in the disaster declaration.

In response to the situation, I have taken appropriate action under State law and directed the execution of the State Emergency Plan on August 28, 2005, in accordance with Section 401 of the Stafford Act.

The Governor has declared a State of Emergency for the entire state on August 28, 2005. The Governor authorized mandatory evacuations on August 28, 2005, in Mobile and Baldwin Counties.

The State of Alabama has completed a Standard State Mitigation Plan which was approved in October 2004. The State is currently revising and updating the plan with effects for Hurricanes Ivan and Dennis in order to apply for an enhanced State Mitigation Plan status. Of the 67 Alabama counties, 64 counties have FEMA approved plans at this time.

A Preliminary Damage Assessment has been requested and/or is underway. I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local governments and that supplementary Federal assistance is necessary. I am specifically requesting:

Individual Assistance, including the Individuals and Households Program (IHP), Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Crisis Counseling, Small Business Administration disaster loans for Mobile, Baldwin, and Washington Counties and Public Assistance, Category A (Debris Removal) and Category B (Emergency Protective Measures) to include Direct Federal Assistance (DFA) at 100% for the first 72 hours for Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke, Mobile, Sumter, and Washington Counties, and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the entire state.

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The following information is furnished on the nature and amount of State and local resources that have been or will be used to alleviate the conditions of this disaster:

Implementation of the State Emergency Plan
Activation of the State Emergency Operations Center
Activation of the local Emergency Operations Centers
Statewide mobilization of assets

I certify that for this major disaster, the State and local governments will assume all applicable non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act.

In accordance with 44 CFR § 206.208, the State of Alabama agrees that it will, with respect to direct Federal assistance:

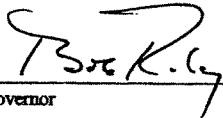
1. Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements and rights-of-ways necessary to accomplish the approved work;
2. Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the requested work, and shall indemnify the Federal Government against any claims arising from such work;
3. Provide reimbursement to FEMA for the non-Federal share of the cost of such work in accordance with the provisions of the FEMA-State Agreement; and
4. Assist the performing Federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

In addition, I anticipate the need for debris removal, which poses an immediate threat to lives, public health, and safety.

Pursuant to Sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170b & 5173, the State agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States of America for any claims arising from the removal of debris or wreckage for this disaster. The State agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

I have designated **Bruce P. Baughman** as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. He/she will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in damage assessment and may provide further information or justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,


Governor