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Dear Members of the Vietnamese Community:

The devastation from Hurricane Katrina is a great challenge for our nation. We will rebuild the Gulf Coast, and we will bring New Orleans back to being one of this country's most vibrant, culturally infused cities. But it will take a collective effort, one in which people of all races, creeds and ethnicities must pitch in to help.

Like Northern Virginia, the areas affected by the Hurricane are marked by a wealth of cultural diversity, including strong Vietnamese communities. The latest Census information tells us that more than 35,000 Vietnamese made New Orleans, Biloxi and the coastal Gulf areas their home.

Though the initial response to the devastation was grossly inadequate, it is now our responsibility to assist those in need. Nearly 6,000 evacuees have relocated to Northern Virginia. In part this is due to our robust job market and economy. But it also is due to the many, selfless non-profit organizations in our region that seek to serve those who need help.

I commend the efforts of the National Congress of Vietnamese Americans, the National Alliance of Vietnamese Americans Service Agencies and other active organizations that are working to help rebuild the Gulf Coast and take care of its displaced citizens.

As a member of the House Appropriations committee, I remain committed to making the necessary funds available for rebuilding the Gulf Coast and for holding Congress accountable to its promise to care for the hurricane's victims.

I commend and thank you for your commitment to the Vietnamese community and to our nation in this time of need.

Sincerely,


James P. Moran