Carl Bernofsky, Ph.D. 109 Southfield Road, Apt. 51H New Orleans, LA 71105

July 15, 2010

The Honorable John Fleming 6425 Youree Drive, Suite 350 Shreveport, LA 71105

Re: Unspent Road Home Funds

Dear Dr. Fleming:

Recent articles in *The Times-Picayune* describe how some members of Congress are attempting to take back the \$400 million in unspent funds that had been earmarked to assist homeowners who were victims of the Katrina disaster, arguing that they should have been spent sooner. On July 1, the House passed an \$80 billion emergency spending bill that included the return of that \$400 million Road Home money.

I strongly urge you to do what you can to oppose the return of the remaining Road Home funds because of pending obligations to Katrina victims that have yet to be fulfilled. I speak from experience because my wife and I lived in New Orleans for 30 years, lost nearly everything in the flood that accompanied the storm, and were never fully compensated for the losses to which we were entitled.

On November 13, 2009, we filed Civil Action No. 09-1919 in U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana, which named the LRA and Office of Community Development as defendants. The suit is a claim for Road Home benefits for which we are fully eligible but were denied through egregious negligence and misconduct by the Road Home Program.

Judgment in this case is now pending and will be rendered at some future date. In the event that judgment is found in our favor, I am concerned that it may be declared moot because of the unavailability of Road Home funds to Louisiana's Office of Community Development. We also believe that the premature return of the Road Home funds will harm many other Louisiana citizens who are still trying to recover from the impact of the storm.

I should greatly appreciate your attention to this matter and would be pleased to answer any questions that you may have.

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