

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

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May 10, 2010

The Honorable Mary Landrieu  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Small Business  
and Entrepreneurship  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Landrieu:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region, applauds your introduction of S. 2986, the "Southeast Hurricanes Small Business Disaster Relief Act of 2010."

This legislation would provide the Small Business Administration with the flexibility to adjust interest rates for up to three years on disaster relief loans to small businesses located in the Gulf Coast region. The recent economic downturn has frustrated many attempts by small businesses in the Gulf Coast region to recover from the back-to-back disasters they have experienced in recent years. The limited additional relief that this bill would offer could be an important factor in the survival for many of these businesses and further help to stabilize a region that has been hard hit.

Ninety- Six percent of the Chamber's members are small businesses with fewer than one-hundred employees. On behalf of its smaller members, the Chamber thanks you for introducing this important legislation.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten