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**BOBBY JINDAL**  
Governor



DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAL

2008 SEP -5 PM 4:00

**State of Louisiana**  
**Office of the Governor**

September 3, 2008

The Honorable Carlos M. Gutierrez  
Secretary of Commerce  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
14<sup>th</sup> and Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20230

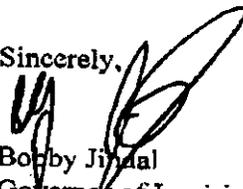
Dear Mr. Secretary:

As Louisiana begins the process of recovering from Hurricane Gustav, I am writing to officially request that you declare a commercial fishery failure and enact the disaster declaration clauses in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act so that our impacted fishermen, fishing communities and biologic resources can be restored. Hurricane Gustav's storm track impacted many of the nation's most important fishing communities. In these central coastal parishes, commercial fishing is also a vital employer and important component of these parishes' economy.

Louisiana's fisheries are vital not only to the state's economy but also to the nation, supplying nearly a third of the fish harvested in the lower 48 states by weight, with value in excess of \$2.85 billion. As the largest producer of domestic seafood for our nation, restoration of Louisiana's fisheries, fisheries infrastructure, and habitat is critical to our nation's economy as well as to the families in our state who have made a living in the fishing industry, some for generations. We must not overlook the devastating effects that this natural disaster will have on commercial fishermen and fisheries infrastructure in the Gulf of Mexico. By immediately making funds available, our fishermen can return to commerce and supply our nations with US caught shrimp, crab, oysters and finfish.

Declaring a commercial fisheries failure will begin the process of delivering financial assistance to the impacted commercial fishing industry in Louisiana and help get Louisiana fishermen back on the water. Thank you for considering this urgent request. We look forward to working with you as Louisiana recovers from Hurricane Gustav.

Sincerely,



Bobby Jindal  
Governor of Louisiana