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Grover G. Norquist, President

September 22, 2005

Honorable Charles Grassley  
Committee on Finance, Chairman  
United States Senate  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6200

Dear Chairman Grassley:

**On behalf of Americans for Tax Reform (ATR), I am writing to express this organization's strong support for your proposal to freeze spending at current levels to offset the spending needed to finance the reconstruction effort of the Gulf Region.**

As you know, Hurricane Katrina imposed severe damage to the Gulf Region and the rebuilding process will be costly, but needed. Adding an additional \$200 billion of new spending on top of the \$150 billion planned increase in spending to pay for general government operations will impose a severe burden on American taxpayers.

**As such, ATR strongly supports your proposal for a spending freeze and believes fiscal year 2006 general government spending should be frozen at current levels. This provides roughly three-quarters of the needed offset to fully fund the reconstruction efforts.**

Your proposal, combined with the 150 program terminations put forward by President Bush in his proposed fiscal year 2006 budget, will ensure the Gulf Region can be rebuilt with minimal impact on American taxpayers.

I also want to thank you for your continued support of the previous tax cuts put into place. ATR believes now is the wrong time to increase taxes, yet, some members of Congress have called for this. **Your leadership in moving through the 2003 tax cut has led to \$10 trillion of new wealth for American households and the creation of more than 4 million jobs.** Clearly, these tax cuts have increased the income of the nation which makes the nation better prepared to handle national disasters such as Hurricane Katrina. To remove these provisions would only make the nation worst off.

Once again I want to thank you for your leadership on this important issue and your leadership on all issues facing American taxpayers. ATR is committed to passing your proposal to freeze spending.

Sincerely,

Grover G. Norquist