

By: Senator(s) Davis, Doxey, Dawkins, Lee
(35th), Hewes, Moffatt, Lee (47th), Brown,
Michel, Butler, Pickering, Clarke, Hyde-
Smith, Robertson, Frazier, Ross, Walley,
Flowers

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 530

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND EXTENDING THE SINCERE
2 THANKS OF THE LEGISLATURE TO U.S. SENATE APPROPRIATIONS CHAIRMAN
3 THAD COCHRAN (R-MS) FOR SECURING CRITICAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO
4 THE HURRICANE KATRINA DISASTER VICTIMS.

5 WHEREAS, it is difficult to overestimate the power of the
6 Chairmanship of the United States Senate Appropriations Committee
7 - currently held by senior U.S. Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS); and

8 WHEREAS, Senate Appropriations Chairman Thad Cochran
9 announced on Sunday, December 18, 2005, that he had secured an
10 agreement on legislation that would provide immediate assistance
11 to hurricane recovery efforts. Cochran, on behalf of our state,
12 negotiated the fiscal year 2006 Department of Defense
13 Appropriations Act (H.R. 2863), which includes \$29 Billion in
14 Community Development Block Grants for specific needs arising from
15 Hurricane Katrina that are not covered by the Stafford Act. This
16 \$29 Billion includes funding for activities in Mississippi,
17 Louisiana and Alabama ranging from homeowner assistance to social
18 services; rebuilding of federal facilities in the affected areas;
19 helping states which are housing evacuees; and replenishing the
20 accounts of federal agencies which have been involved in the
21 recovery. (The White House had requested \$17 Billion in aid for
22 hurricane recovery efforts); and

23 WHEREAS, "This is a big victory for Katrina disaster
24 victims," said Senator Cochran. "This legislation will accelerate
25 and improve the recovery from the damages caused by the
26 hurricanes"; and

27 WHEREAS, with his elevation to the Appropriations Committee
28 chair, Thad Cochran joins Mississippi congressional legends like

29 the late U.S. Senator John Stennis, who chaired that committee
30 before him, and the late U.S. Representative Jamie Whitten, who
31 chaired the House Appropriations Committee for many years; and

32 WHEREAS, Mississippi's hopes for getting the billions in
33 Hurricane Katrina relief that Governor Haley Barbour had
34 identified as the state's minimum possible need depended on
35 Cochran's ability to force Congress to use his chairmanship as
36 Stennis and Whitten did before him. Indeed, Senator Cochran
37 utilized such a strategy in attaching a Katrina relief package for
38 the Gulf Coast as a supplemental appropriation to the Department
39 of Defense appropriations bill to pay for the war in Iraq. This
40 package contained Community Development Block Grants to help many
41 Mississippi homeowners who were denied coverage due to the
42 "wind-versus-water" insurance argument, which is a solid plan for
43 our state's economic recovery and meets human needs; and

44 WHEREAS, the rest of the state's congressional delegation
45 rallied behind Cochran's plan, but most of all, the plan's success
46 depended on Cochran's personal resolve to make it happen; and

47 WHEREAS, in 1978, Thad Cochran was elected to the United
48 States Senate, becoming the first Republican in over 100 years to
49 win a statewide election in Mississippi. He was reelected in 1984
50 with over 60% of the votes, in 1990 he was unopposed, and in 1996
51 he was reelected to a fourth term in the Senate with over 70% of
52 the votes; and

53 WHEREAS, prior to this term, Senator Cochran has served as
54 Chairman of the Senate Republican Conference, the Agriculture,
55 Nutrition and Forestry Committee and the Homeland Security
56 Appropriations Subcommittee. He currently serves as Chairman of
57 the full Appropriations Committee and as a member of the Rules
58 Committee. His legislative record includes the sponsorship of the
59 National Missile Defense Act of 1999, the Campaign Finance Reform
60 Act, as well as key provisions of several farm bills. He authored
61 the Mississippi Wilderness Act, which is the first federal

62 legislation ever passed for the perpetual protection of lands in
63 the State of Mississippi; and

64 WHEREAS, Senator Cochran has been awarded honorary degrees
65 from Kentucky Wesleyan College, Mississippi College, Blue Mountain
66 College and the University of Richmond. He is a member of the
67 Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution and the Board of
68 the Museum of American History. He is a member of Northminster
69 Baptist Church in Jackson, Mississippi. He and his wife the
70 former Rose Clayton of New Albany, Mississippi, have two grown
71 children and two grandsons; and

72 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this
73 outstanding achievement by our state's senior statesman, whose
74 leadership was critical to relieve the suffering of Mississippians
75 residing on the Gulf Coast and to rebuild the economy and
76 infrastructure of the region:

77 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
78 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
79 we do hereby commend and extend the sincere thanks of the
80 Legislature to U.S. Senate Appropriations Chairman Thad Cochran
81 (R-MS) for his leadership in securing critical financial
82 assistance to the Hurricane Katrina disaster victims, and for his
83 continued influence in assisting our state as we rebuild and
84 recover from this most terrible disaster.

85 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
86 Senator Cochran and forwarded to members of Mississippi's
87 congressional delegation and be made available to members of the
88 Capitol Press Corps.