

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 30, 2011

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Baucus and Ranking Member Hatch:

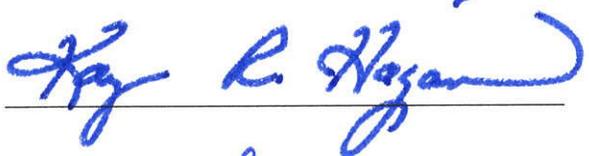
The storm systems that devastated the Southeast over the past few months were tragic events, claiming hundreds of lives and resulting in billions of dollars of damage. As affected individuals, families, and small businesses continue to pick up the pieces, it is important that Congress take prudent steps following these extraordinary storms to help these communities recover.

The Southeastern Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2011 (S. 1205) consists entirely of temporary tax provisions included in previous natural disaster response bills that received broad bipartisan support. This legislation provides targeted relief for areas that were significantly damaged by the severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding and that FEMA specifically identified as warranting additional federal support through individual assistance. We believe S. 1205 strikes the appropriate balance between providing cost-effective tax relief and helping those affected rebuild and get back on their feet.

We ask that you give expeditious consideration to S. 1205 and assist us in moving a fully offset package through the Senate. The Senate Finance Committee has been instrumental in providing relief to individuals affected by catastrophic events in the past, and we look forward to working with you to respond to these tragic storms.

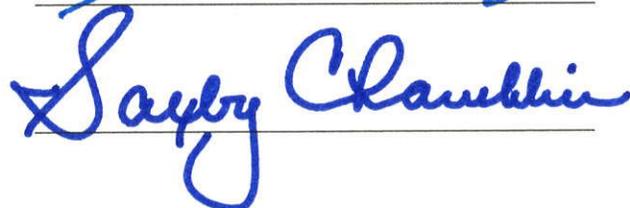
Sincerely,


Richard Shelby


Kay L. Hagan


Jeff Sessions


Jim McInerney


Saxby Chambliss


Mark Royce


John Boozman


Jim Inhofe


Kay Bunt


Conrad Burns