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areas of the country affected by the hurricane. However, it is important that the Federal Government lead by example and further contribute to the relief effort by reducing its own fuel use during this difficult time.

Therefore, I hereby direct the heads of executive departments and agencies (agencies) to take appropriate actions to conserve natural gas, electricity, gasoline, and diesel fuel to the maximum extent consistent with the effective discharge of public responsibilities. All agencies should conserve fuel so we can reduce overall demand and allow extra supplies to be directed towards the hurricane relief effort. In particular, agencies should temporarily curtail non-essential travel and other activities that use gasoline or diesel fuel, and encourage employees to carpool, telecommute, and use public transportation to reduce fuel use. Federal agencies should also take action to conserve natural gas and electricity during periods of peak consumption by shifting energy-intensive activities to non-peak periods wherever possible and by procuring and using efficient Energy STAR-rated energy intensive appliances and products.

In addition, agencies should review their existing operating and administrative processes and conservation programs and identify and implement ways to reduce overall fuel use. Agencies should report to me, through the Secretary of Energy, within 30 days from the date of this memorandum on the fuel conservation actions taken. Agencies shall take these and other appropriate energy and fuel conservation actions using existing budget authority.

George W. Bush

Presidential Determination Relating to Assistance for Saudi Arabia

September 26, 2005

Presidential Determination No. 2005–38

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Presidential Determination Relating to Assistance for Saudi Arabia

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 575 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2005 (FY 2005 FOAA) (Div. D, Public Law 108–447), I hereby certify that Saudi Arabia is cooperating with efforts to combat international terrorism and that the proposed assistance will help facilitate that effort, and hereby waive the application of section 575 of the FY 2005 FOAA, as well as any provision of law that is the same or substantially the same as such provision, including subsequently enacted provisions.

You are directed to report this certification to the Congress and publish it in the *Federal Register.*

George W. Bush

Remarks to Reporters in Beaumont, Texas

September 27, 2005

I just met with local county judges and mayors, along with the Governor. Obviously this area is hurt. The Governor knows that. I saw it firsthand, how it's hurt. We've got some priorities that we're in the process of working together to achieve. The first is food and water. The second is electricity and generators moving this way; there's a rational plan to distribute the generators. Thirdly, there's fuel. We fully understand that it's hard to maintain order if you don't have fuel for your cars and first-responders.

And I appreciate the planning that the Governor put into this. The State of Texas is—took precautions before the storm hit and is now responding. And our job is to work with the State. I have the top people here with me, the Coast Guard Admiral, who is in charge of the Federal response. I had the head of FEMA with me, and I had a three-star Army general here, all of them here to help make sure these people can get their lives back together.

Again, the Governor has got a plan to make sure people don't come back too early. He's listening to the local judges and the mayors. Obviously, we want people to come home as quickly as possible. We want them to be able to do so in an orderly way. And when

they get home, they find that there's a—you know, as best as possible, power and water.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:58 a.m. at the Southeast Texas Regional Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Rick Perry of Texas; Rear Adm. Larry L. Hereth, USCG, commander, Fifth Coast Guard District; R. David Paulison, acting Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency; and Lt. Gen. Robert T. Clark, USA, commander, Joint Task Force—Rita. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Following a Briefing on Hurricane Rita in Lake Charles, Louisiana

September 27, 2005

The President. Governor, thank you very much for your hospitality. It's been my honor to talk to some of these parish presidents and mayors of the affected area. I came down to make sure that things are going as best as they possibly can go.

First of all, I want to compliment the local folks for the heroic efforts they made to save life. I understand there's a lot of frustrations with the people who left this part of the country. People that are scattered around want to come back and see their homes, and they want to come back to the communities they love. But it's very important for them to understand that now is not the time to come back, until they get the utilities up and running and until they can get the sewer systems running and until they get some water people can drink.

I heard loud and clear from the parish presidents and the mayors that, you know, people are getting frustrated. And I understand that frustration. But I think it's very important to listen to the Governors—the Governor and the local folks about the conditions at home. People are working hard to get the utilities up. They're working hard to get fuel here for people. And this area is going to rebuild, and it's going to grow again.

Those who've been displaced, those in the affected areas know that they can call a FEMA number to get a $2,000 check for each family. And that will help you in your time away from your home, so please call and register. Last night we made the decision that the people affected by Rita will be treated the same way, with a $2,000 check, as those treated—those affected by Katrina.

So anyway, Governor, thanks for having me. Senators and Congressmen, thank you for coming. I particularly want to thank these parish presidents and mayors for their—if you look at them, you see—if you look in their eyes you see people who have been through a lot. And they're showing strong leadership, and I admire their stand and the courage they take.

Governor, if you'd like to say something.

Governor Blanco. Well, Mr. President, first, let me say thank you for joining us today. You know, as you understand well, our people have been through a lot in southwest Louisiana. I do want to tell you that some things worked right this time. We learned a lot of lessons from our previous experience with Katrina. Our communications network stayed up. All of these folks could continue communicating their needs to us because there was a communications system that was—not in place; it was brought in by your people and our people, working together.

I want to thank you because we have to continue a very close partnership in order for our recovery to be effective and in order for Louisiana to become whole again. We want to be players in this national economy. Our industries across this State have been impaired for the time being, but we know we can bring them back. The oil and gas industry is dependent on our health—on a healthy Louisiana. The fisheries are dependent on Louisiana. We provide food to the people of the United States out of these parishes. Our agricultural industry is tremendously stressed.

But we know we can make it back, but we only can make it back with your help. So thank you again for coming. Thank you for letting all these folks tell you about their personal experiences. And we believe that we're going to make it back because you're here with us, and we know we have a good partnership.

The President. Listen, thank you all. Appreciate you.