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February 25, 2008

Mr. Gary Dietrich
SAFELY OUT
c/o Citizen Voice
1215 K Street, 17th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Dietrich:

I am pleased to offer my support to Citizen Voice's SAFELY OUT initiative which is taking steps to ensure that our most vulnerable citizens -- including the disabled, seniors, young children -- are able to successfully evacuate during a disaster.

As you know, Sacramento sits at the confluence of two great rivers, the Sacramento and the American. While our proximity to these rivers has many benefits, it also means that our city faces the constant threat of flooding. As Hurricane Katrina taught us, we can never be too prepared in the case of a catastrophe. As the SAFELY OUT program moves forward, the kits will help our emergency responders' during disasters by enabling them to allocate resources to those who need them most.

The SAFELY OUT initiative will help vulnerable residents evacuate should a disaster occur. By raising awareness of the need to establish emergency preparedness plans, many residents will be more equipped to evacuate in the wake of a disaster. I hope this approach will alleviate the burden of our emergency responders allowing them to focus their resources on the most underserved and susceptible, and I trust that you will be working closely with the Sacramento Police and Fire Departments.

Again, I am pleased to support Citizen Voice's SAFELY OUT project.

Sincerely,



DORIS O. MATSUI
Member of Congress

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