



September 16, 2005

United States House of Representatives
1136 LHOB
House Ways and Means Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

On behalf of the members of our library associations we urge the House Ways and Means Committee to include a provision in the tax relief package for individuals affected by Hurricane Katrina that lifts the obstacle in the tax code to the charitable donation of books to schools and libraries. The substantial damages inflicted on schools and libraries along the Gulf Coast and the influx of displaced students elsewhere have led to an unprecedented number of requests from schools and libraries for books and other educational materials.

We know that the ability of publishers to meet the magnitude of this need will be greatly improved if Congress adopts this provision to provide an enhanced deduction for donations of book inventory. The tax code needs to be changed. Nothing should stand in the way of our ability to meet the enormous need that we are facing in our effort to restore the libraries affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Now, in the wake of this tragedy, is the time to clear up a longstanding hurdle to assist in providing schools and communities with the resources required to meet the educational needs of all children. This provision will allow publishers to their generous donations of books and materials to the devastated school and public libraries across the Gulf Coast.

Please let us know what we can do to help assure the enactment of this provision.

Sincerely,

American Association of Law Libraries - Mary Alice Baish

American Library Association - Lynne Bradley

Association of Research Libraries - Prue Adler