

ROBERT E. LATTA
5TH DISTRICT, OHIO

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1531 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-6405

ASSISTANT MINORITY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3505

DISTRICT OFFICES:
1045 NORTH MAIN STREET
SUITE 6
BOWLING GREEN, OH 43402
(419) 354-8700

101 CLINTON STREET
SUITE 1200
DEFIANCE, OH 43512
(419) 782-1996

11 EAST MAIN STREET
NORWALK, OH 44857
(419) 668-0206

March 4, 2010

Mr. Craig Fugate
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472-0001

Dear Administrator Fugate,

From the moment the first earthquake struck Haiti on January 12, 2010, I have been greatly concerned over the devastation that this natural disaster has incurred on an already poverty-stricken nation. The humanitarian needs are great, and the American people have shown their generous spirit through the outpouring of monetary and commodity donations, as well as teams of personnel to provide medical assistance. In fact, I have been diligently working to assist a medical missionary team from my District, Ohio's 5th Congressional District, to respond to the urgent medical needs of those affected by the earthquake. I, and my staff, have also been supporting families in the process of adopting Haitian children. While the immediate needs caused by this disaster are still being filled, long-term reconstruction will be a challenge to the people of Haiti.

As you look to fill the needed supply of tents for the future, I encourage you to purchase U.S. manufactured tents and tent components to use as a source of shelter for the Haitian people who are now homeless. Companies such as Celina Tent in Celina, Ohio could be a useful resource to helping aid in the efforts for Haiti.

With an unemployment rate of 10 percent nationally, and 12.8% in my Congressional District, keeping jobs in America is vital to the State of Ohio and the rest of the United States. According to the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the Fifth Congressional District of Ohio had the 9th largest manufacturing District in mid-2008, and is now ranked as the 20th largest manufacturing district as of December 2009. Ohio currently has over 614,500 manufacturing jobs according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics most recent data. This reflects a 12.7% decline from December 2008 until December 2009. Between December 2008 and December 2009, Ohio has lost over 85,000 manufacturing jobs and over 400,000 during this past decade. It is important that when the United States assists countries in times of disaster and need that we supply them with American made products.

Given the above concerns, I would appreciate your response in relation to American-made tent as America assists the people of Haiti in this time of crisis. Please feel free to contact me, or Cory Toth of my staff, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress

REL/cat