



700 13th St. NW, Suite 575, Washington, DC 20005-5923 · Phone: (202) 842-1645
Fax: (202) 842-0850 · E-mail: abainfo@buses.org

Member Alert

To: ABA Bus Operator Members

From: ABA President & CEO Peter Pantuso

Date: February 6, 2009

RE: ABA Urges Texas To Pay Operators For Hurricane Evacuation Help

ABA wrote a letter this week to Texas Gov. Rick Perry (R) urging that the Lone Star state expedite its payment to bus operators who provided critical assistance in several recent hurricane evacuations, including Ike in 2008, among others.

“In this time of economic downturn, we have been hearing too many stories” of the potential financial challenges small operators face from delayed payments, ABA wrote. Such hard-working bus operators, many of whom own two to five motorcoaches, characterize more than 90% of the independent motorcoach community. To them, “the delays in payment” could have long-term effects on their business vitality, ABA said.

Many ABA motorcoach operator members have reported challenges in receiving payment for equipment used to evacuate Texas residents during recent hurricanes.

Perry’s state Department of Homeland Security (DHS) director Steve McGraw has said \$7 million has been dispersed already, and that the state is following up with an additional \$25 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Gov. Perry and Lt. Governor David Dewhurst have been asked to allocate additional funds that can be used to pay motorcoach companies, after which Texas can be reimbursed for these funds from FEMA at a later date.

ABA applauds the Texas Travel Industry Association’s (TTIA) efforts to ensure that Texas leaders are aware of the impact that the motorcoach, travel and tourism industry has on the Texas economy, and for exploring every avenue available to assure operators are reimbursed. The TTIA has been critical in relaying the most up-to-date information on this topic to ABA. To read the full letter, click here: <http://www.buses.org/files/2009%20TX%20Hurricane%20RepaymentLetterofGovRickPerry2409.pdf>. As always, feel free to call me directly at 202-218-7229.