



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

BENNIE G. THOMPSON
SECOND DISTRICT
MISSISSIPPI

April 29, 2010

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515-2402
(202) 225-5876

The Honorable William J. Clinton
The Clinton Bush Haiti Fund
c/o The William J. Clinton Foundation
Donations Department
610 President Clinton Avenue
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

RE: Haitian Relief and Recovery -Shelter and Housing Concerns

Dear President Clinton,

It is accepted that the most viable and readily available items for temporary shelter in a disaster situation are tents. We recognize that beyond the first response period, living in tents is an intolerable situation. With the onset of this year's rainy season, having the Haitian disaster victims living in tents is an even more unbearable and untenable situation.

It has come to my attention that there is a better solution to temporary housing--a product known as the "Dome". I understand there is a good track record for using Domes in disaster areas. Domes are produced by InterShelter, a company based in Alaska. I also understand that Domes are earthquake and rain proof, hurricane resistant and can accommodate up to 18 people comfortably. Clearly, using the Domes would provide a more durable solution to the temporary shelter crisis until a permanent plan is in place.

It is my understanding that Wyclef Jean's relief organization, Yele Haiti Foundation, is supportive of moving people into Domes. I too am supportive of this effort, not only because Domes would afford the people more durable temporary housing, but if additional Domes are ordered they would be manufactured in Haiti, thereby creating jobs and ultimately placing Haitians on the road to economic stability. Yele Haiti Foundation is expecting its first delivery of 25 Domes in Haiti very soon. The people of Haiti need substantive and well thought out solutions for their future well being, both long and short term during the recovery process. As that process continues, they will be better off living in a more sustainable and secure form of housing.

You have my sincere appreciation for the good work you are doing in Haiti . Please keep me informed of the progress in your recovery efforts, and the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund's plans for supporting the use of the Domes.

Sincerely,

Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress