

**BOBBY JINDAL**  
Governor



**State of Louisiana**  
**Office of the Governor**

April 21, 2009

Dear Sir/Madam:

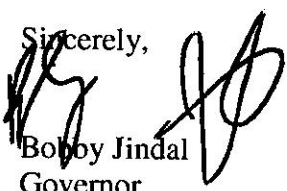
The completion of Interstate 49 from New Orleans to Arkansas is a priority of my administration. Since taking office in January 2008, I have dedicated state and federal funds for I-49 North and South from every available funding source, including the regular highway program, surplus, and stimulus.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the **I-49 International Coalition**, a group of over 100 businesses, associations, public entities, and individuals in Louisiana, Arkansas, and Missouri. Led by Gard Wayt as Executive Director, this group is working collectively across parish and state lines to complete the unfinished segments of Interstate 49 between New Orleans and Kansas City, at which point the highway joins with Interstate 29 from Kansas City to Winnipeg, Canada. Once complete, I-49 will intersect ten other east-west interstates and connect mid-America to the ports of New Orleans and South Louisiana with access to Central America and the world at large.

My administration is working with the I-49 International Coalition to continue the progress that has been made in funding and constructing I-49. I support the Coalition's goal to create a three-state authority to speed up completion of this vital highway, which has been defined by the federal government as a High Priority Corridor of national significance. I also plan to meet with the governors of Arkansas and Missouri to discuss how we can partner in this effort

Thank you for your continued support to realize the completion of I-49 from New Orleans to Kansas City. This priority project will enhance tourism, trade, and economic development throughout the region in addition to safety and hurricane evacuation. I look forward to working with you and the Coalition in the months and years ahead.

Sincerely,

  
Bobby Jindal  
Governor