



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

September 22, 2008

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Governor
State of Georgia
203 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-0900

Dear Governor Perdue:

On behalf of all Texans, and in particular those whose lives have been disrupted by Hurricane Ike, I want to thank you and the citizens of Georgia for all you have done to help our state recover from this disaster.

I, too, am dismayed by the incident reflected in your letter of September, 19, 2008, regarding the unfortunate treatment that two Georgia Forestry Commission staffers experienced while volunteering in Houston.

I have asked my staff to look into this incident further so that I have all the facts. I want to do everything in my power to ensure that emergency management officials extend full courtesies to volunteers from all states. In the meantime, I have called both of the women and extended my sincerest apologies on behalf of the state. I certainly hope that they do not see their experience as indicative of how we treat our guests.

Georgia has consistently offered Texas a helping hand in times of need, including past wild fires and our most recent natural disaster. We are committed to this mutually beneficial relationship extending into the future.

Again, my sincerest apologies and I certainly hope this incident does not mar the great relationship between our states.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rick Perry
Governor