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Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time and for his courtesy in permitting me to speak on this proposal. I applaud what the committee has done, moving forward with specific tax relief that is going to make a difference for people in this devastated area.

I am hopeful that this will signify the start of a creative effort on the part of a number of committees, people on both sides of the aisle, to figure out ways that we can have assistance that is commensurate with the challenge and, in fact, employs some of the techniques that we have used in other parts of the world.

Some of us visited the tsunami-ravaged area days after that devastation, and we saw on the ground people in Indonesia, in Sri Lanka, and in Thailand that were being put to work virtually overnight with a cash-for-work program that had people doing essential labor-intensive work that made the community better so that the recovery could proceed.

I would hope the creativity, ingenuity, and bipartisan spirit demonstrated by the Committee on Ways and Means on these important provisions could be extended to other committees, other parts of our organizational efforts here to have a program so that every able-bodied person in the three States who wants to be able to work restoring their community is given that opportunity. It will be far cheaper in the long run than employing expensive contracts from people out of State, and it will give people a sense of ownership and involvement, and it will get money circulating in those devastated local economies.

Madam Speaker, I am hopeful that we will be able to use the creativity to bring other people together for a planning effort that involves the people in Mississippi, in Alabama, and in New Orleans, because we are going to be putting at least another \$100 billion on the ground. We ought to make sure that this is not just a monument for rapid Federal reaction. It should be a model, for the very first time on this scale, taking this blank slate and working with the people who had their lives turned upside down, and making them full partners in putting the pieces back together.