PRESS CONFERENCE ON PROJECT RESTORE HOPE

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS), Operation Hope, and the Small Business Administration (SBA) will jointly host a press conference on Friday, December 16, 2005, at 11:00 AM to discuss efforts to promote volunteerism by financial services industry professionals in the public and private sectors in support of "Project Restore HOPE -- The National Economic Recovery Initiative for Hurricane Victims."

The press conference will follow an interagency meeting addressing ways in which the financial services industry and regulators can address the financial needs of hurricane victims from the Gulf Coast states.

Operation HOPE Chairman John Bryant, SBA Administrator Hector Barreto and OTS Director John Reich will host the press conference. Representatives from the other Federal Banking Agencies and from bank and thrift trade groups have also been invited to attend.

The press conference will be held:

11:00 AM, Friday, December 16, 2005
Office of Thrift Supervision
1700 G St, NW
Washington, DC 20052

Reporters interested in attending should RSVP to the OTS Public Affairs Office at 202-906-6677, or erin.hickman@ots.treas.gov.

For more information on how to be a part of or contribute to Project Restore HOPE, visit www.operationhope.org/katrina, or call 1-877-592-HOPE (4673).

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The Office of Thrift Supervision, an office of the Department of the Treasury, regulates and supervises the nation's thrift industry. OTS's mission is to ensure the safety and soundness of, and compliance with consumer protection laws by, thrift
institutions, and to support their role as home mortgage lenders and providers of other community credit and financial services. OTS also oversees the activities and operations of thrift holding companies that own or control thrift institutions. Copies of OTS news releases and other documents are available at the OTS web page at www.ots.treas.gov.