

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2419, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. JEFFERSON OF LOUISIANA**

At the end of subtitle A of title VIII, add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 8008. EXPANSION OF URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORE-**
2 **STRY PROGRAM FOR GULF COAST REGION.**

3 Section 9(f) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance
4 Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2105(f)) is amended by adding
5 at the end the following new paragraph:

6 “(3) ASSISTANCE FOR GULF COAST REGION.—

7 “(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the
8 term ‘Gulf Coast Region’ means the area cov-
9 ered by the declaration of the President, in ac-
10 cordance with section 401 of the Robert T.
11 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-
12 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170), that a major dis-
13 aster exists as a consequence of Hurricanes
14 Katrina and Rita.

15 “(B) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—Of
16 the funds made available pursuant to the au-
17 thorization of appropriations in subsection (i)
18 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012, the
19 Secretary shall give priority to expending such

1 funds for the recovery of trees and greenery in
2 the Gulf Region for the purpose of—

3 “(i) expanding research, knowledge,
4 and awareness regarding the value of
5 urban trees;

6 “(ii) encouraging the maintenance
7 and expansion of urban tree cover in the
8 Gulf Coast Region;

9 “(iii) implementing a tree planting
10 program in the Gulf Coast Region to com-
11 plement urban and community tree main-
12 tenance and open space programs and to
13 reduce carbon dioxide emissions, conserve
14 energy, and improve air quality; and

15 “(iv) enhancing the technical skills
16 and understanding of sound tree mainte-
17 nance and arboricultural practices of indi-
18 viduals involved in the planning, develop-
19 ment, and maintenance of urban and com-
20 munity forests and trees in the Gulf Coast
21 Region.”.