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**Consumer Group Condemns U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Report Attacking States in Hurricane Ravaged Gulf Coast Region**

Wisconsin, Illinois, West Virginia and Florida Unfairly Attacked As Well

New York – The Center for Justice & Democracy today condemned the U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s fifth annual state liability rankings report for its inexplicable targeting for criticism every state in the Hurricane ravaged Gulf Coast region, suggesting that these states are bad for businesses.

The report, which is based on nothing more than the views of corporate lawyers who defend corporate wrongdoers, ranks the hardest-hit Gulf Region states among the bottom 10 states: Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Texas. As one illustration of how completely erroneous these “rankings” are, the same day the Chamber released its report, an economic survey by Chicago-based Pollina Corporate Real Estate Inc., evaluating businesses based on 26 factors put Alabama as #5 in the nation for business friendliness.

“At a time when the rest of the country is pulling for these states to recover from devastating hurricanes, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has apparently decided this is a good time to trash them with false information, adding to the misery of their citizens and wreaking further havoc on their business communities,” said Joanne Doroshow, Executive Director of the Center for Justice & Democracy. “The U.S. Chamber of Commerce needs to get back to its mission of helping promote good businesses and stop attacking the very states and communities it should be helping.”

CJ&D also condemned the Chamber for focusing attacks on several other states including Wisconsin, Illinois, West Virginia, and Florida, all of which are doing well or better than they have in recent years in terms of business climate. Florida was just named one of the best states in the nation for doing businesses by the Pollina poll. For more information, see: <http://centerjd.org>

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