



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Greetings:

As Governor of Texas, I am proud to welcome you to Austin for the Disaster Recovery Institute's 2023 conference.

Whether thunderous quakes in the earth beneath us or torrential downpour from the skies above, disasters are an inescapable aspect of the human experience. We know, however, that *no* disaster is mighty enough to subdue the human spirit, and in the aftermath of catastrophe, people have always found a way to rebuild and recover.

In the past, this reconstruction depended entirely upon brute manpower, but today, disaster recovery is a sophisticated, nuanced endeavor marked by collaboration among the leaders of science, government, and industry. To a great extent, resilience in the face of adversity defines the human spirit, and this quintessential trait is today evident in disaster relief organizations, foremost among which is Disaster Recovery Institute International (DRI).

For more than thirty years, DRI has enabled organizations the world over to prepare for any eventuality and to stand strong amidst all manner of calamity. Moreover, DRI has carried the banner of disaster preparedness into the digital age by preparing for and responding to cybersecurity threats, which can be as ruinous as physical disasters.

An authoritative thought leader in the resilience profession, DRI has long paved the way for a safer, more secure tomorrow through its accreditation, education, and independent analyses. It arms governments with sound, apolitical insights, and its certification programs have become the "gold standard" industrywide. Moreover, DRI proves its good will toward those in need by supporting hospitals, food banks, and rescue teams with the DRI Foundation.

Ultimately, it is a question of when—not whether—a disaster will occur. Proper preparation is therefore of the utmost importance, and organizations such as DRI protect our future by taking decisive action in the present. Its annual convention stands as a means to this end. Attendees will no doubt have ample opportunity for professional development and networking, and the knowledge you glean will, in due time, reverberate on a global scale.

As you gather to learn from esteemed experts, attend innovative presentations, and participate in special events, I applaud your commitment to this noble endeavor. I am certain that your work will bring about a better, brighter future for the State of Texas and the world.

First Lady Cecilia Abbott joins me in extending best wishes for an informative, enjoyable conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott
Governor