

CEDRIC L. RICHMOND
2ND DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE:

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY, *RANKING MEMBER*

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEES:

CRIME, TERRORISM, HOMELAND SECURITY
AND INVESTIGATIONS

COURTS, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND
THE INTERNET

SENIOR WHIP

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1802

August 13, 2016

240 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6636

DISTRICT OFFICES
2021 LAKESHORE DRIVE
SUITE 309
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70122
(504) 288-3777

200 DERBIGNY STREET
SUITE 3200
GRETN, LA 70053
(504) 365-0390

1520 THOMAS H. DELPIT DRIVE
SUITE 126
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802
(225) 636-5600

Administrator Craig Fugate
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Fugate:

This year, the state of Louisiana has faced repeated rounds of deadly storms and severe flooding. First, the Mississippi River flooded, prompting an emergency declaration and the Governor to request a Major Disaster Declaration. In February, a series of storms caused severe flood damage and deadly tornadoes in parishes across the state. In March, we again experienced severe flooding. Now, over the past few days, we have been inundated with additional flooding that has wreaked havoc on local communities. In every instance, the leadership of our state, with assistance from our federal partners, has risen to meet every challenge and provide resources and support for our citizens. It is my hope that the cooperation between our state officials and the federal government continues. Specifically, I ask for your agency's rapid response to any forthcoming requests for disaster declaration and assistance. Additionally, I invite you to personally come to Louisiana to witness first-hand the crises that currently is impacting our state.

Governor John Bel Edwards declared a state of emergency yesterday. However, the current event is on going, as rain is expected for several more days. Flooding has reached record levels. There are areas that are currently under water that have not flooded before. Our first responders and National Guardsmen are working around the clock, and have rescued well over one thousand people. At present, eighteen parishes have declared emergencies and that number is expected to rise. Certain areas are registering between 1-in-100-year to 1-in-500-year rainfall events.

A Major Disaster Declaration by the President is an important step for local governments and individuals affected by a disaster to receive resources and assistance as they rebuild and recover. It qualifies people and local governments for assistance that truly helps in difficult times. The Public Assistance that the state and local governments become eligible for allows debris to be removed, and public facilities to be repaired or replaced when costs overwhelm state and local budgets. The Individual Assistance that citizens become eligible for can provide support for temporary housing and assistance

with the process of rebuilding and repairing their homes and their lives. The assistance is so important because it comes after devastation, when it is needed most.

I have no doubt our state is experiencing an unprecedented event. I anticipate our state officials, after preliminary assessments, will present a formal request for a Major Disaster Declaration by the President. Your agency, under the President's leadership, has been responsive to our requests for assistance in the past. I hope this instance will be no different. It is my hope that the cooperation will continue and a request for a disaster declaration for the flooding will be submitted as soon as possible, and that federal assistance will follow soon after. While the weather has been challenging, I know the people of Louisiana are up to the challenge. If all aspects of government continue to work together, Louisiana citizens will get the support they deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. L. Richmond', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cedric L. Richmond