

CEDRIC L. RICHMOND
2ND DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
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COURTS, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND
THE INTERNET

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

February 10, 2017

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President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20006

Dear President Trump,

Earlier this week, the state of Louisiana was hit once again by severe weather including 6 tornadoes. These events caused damage across the state, including in Ascension, Orleans, and St. James Parishes, communities in the 2nd District that I represent. The most destructive of these tornadoes touched down in New Orleans East. The tornado that devastated this historic, working-class neighborhood was the largest in the history of the City of New Orleans, and left a trail of devastation in its wake. This unprecedented tornado completely destroyed more than 300 homes and caused moderate to severe damage to more than 600 homes and more than 40 businesses.

Today, Governor Edwards will be requesting an emergency declaration as a result of the damage. This declaration, and the FEMA Individual and Public Assistance that such a declaration would trigger, is absolutely essential to the recovery of the men and women who live in this important New Orleans community.

This tornado devastated a neighborhood just blocks from the beautiful Lakefront Airport, the location of your well-attended rally during the campaign. It is a community that I know well, having been born here, raised here, and representing the people of this area in Congress since 2011. These are hard-working people who have rebuilt their lives and communities after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. They have now seen their homes destroyed and their lives uprooted by a natural disaster once again. This is exactly the type of situation that the Individual Assistance aspect of our nation's disaster response system is designed for, to provide essential support and shelter while people repair and rebuild their homes.

I ask you and your Administration to consider the Governor's request and act quickly to provide the emergency declaration. Declaring a disaster for the people of Orleans Parish would show that you are serious about your commitment to be a president for all people and fulfill the promise you made in August to be there for the people of Louisiana when they are in need after a disaster.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cedric L. Richmond", with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

Cedric L. Richmond